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THURSDAY APRIL 6TH, 2017

HAPPY EASTER
from High Street, Broad Street, Island Road and Market Street

Woodham Road Industrial Estate

Spring Cowbridge Feature

Porthcawl Museum has reopened with a look at town's maritime history



PORTHCAWL'S museum reopened last Saturday – with a new exhibition concentrating on the town's maritime history, writes PHILIP IRWIN.

The volunteers who now run the museum used the close down period to tackle some necessary maintenance, including controlled asbestos removal and much needed improvements to the lighting and heating systems.

The opening was carried out by the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Rob Lee and his wife, the Mayoress Ann Lee.

After cutting the ribbon, the mayor presented Ceri Joseph (the museum secretary) with a Porthcawl Town Council plaque in recognition of her services to the town.

Also in attendance was the Mayor and Mayoress of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Reg Jenkins and Mrs

Theresa Jenkins as well as other invited guests, including members of Porthcawl Town Council.

The opening coincided with the launch of the museum's new SS *Santampa* exhibition. The loss of this ship, along with the Mumbles Lifeboat in 1947 reaches its 70th anniversary later this month.

The exhibition includes many before unseen artefacts from both vessels.

Members of both Porthcawl lifeboat crew and Coast Guards team also attended the opening and displayed Porthcawl's D class Lifeboat outside the museum.

The maritime exhibition will be open until June before being replaced by a new display charting the part that RAF Stormy Down played during the Second World War.

Other improvements to the museum include the Victorian school room and new easier access to the cells of the old police station – all

of which now have new exhibits housed within them.

For more details of the year's planned events visit Porthcawl Museum's website,

www.porthcawlmuseum.com.

The next event is the Easter coffee morning taking place at the Y Centre, John Street, on Friday April 7, at 10.30

am
Photographs are by David Swidenbank (www.thedogphotography.co.uk)
See page 4 for more photographs.

Custodial sentence for Brackla electrician who dealt cocaine and cannabis

SHORTLY after carrying out a welfare check on a man in his Brackla home, police found quantities of cocaine and cannabis on the premises, writes AJ SICLUNA.

Ian Hooper, a £16,000 a year electrician, admitted he had been dealing in cocaine in order to fund his own habit.

Hooper (30), of Robin's Hill, Brackla, was jailed for 28 months after

pleading guilty to possessing cocaine with intent to supply and possessing cannabis.

Recorder Gregory Treverton-Jones QC told him: "You are, to all intents and purposes, a reliable citizen and a good father. I take into account many character references. The courts are bound, saving exceptional circumstances, to abide by sentencing guidelines."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



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Easter fun in Bridgend



Planters are one of the activities at Bridgend Communities First

Bridgend Communities First has a range of family workshops and activities for children to try over the Easter school holiday.

Get crafty with your family making planters for growing herbs, wood 'burnt name' plaques, Easter chicks from egg boxes, Easter egg collecting bags and bird boxes to take home with you ready for spring.

Parents (and children)

can try light exercise at Zumbini sessions, find out how to cook for your family or enjoy listening to Gruffalo storytime sessions.

Access to all Bridgend Communities First Easter activities is open to all those living in Bridgend Communities First postcode areas.

To find out dates and times, visit the what's on page at www.commfirstbridgend.co.uk or call 01656 643514.

'Seek help from chemist' says AM

Huw Irranca-Davies, AM for Omore, is urging people with minor ailments to seek medical help from local chemists, rather than their GPs.

The AM said at the National Assembly that one way of improving access to GPs is to reduce unnecessary burdens on their time.

He said: "I've seen at first-hand in my own constituency, the tremendous work that community pharmacists do in dealing with minor ailments."

Mr Irranca-Davies said seeking help from chemists would ease the pressure on GPs, so that they are freed up to deal with more serious issues.

Health Secretary Vaughan Gething said

he is optimistic about the ability of community pharmacies to play a larger role in the way Mr Irranca-Davies had suggested.

He said: "We invested £750,000 in delivering the community pharmacy IT platform across Wales. The roll-out is progressing, and I'm happy to say we remain on track for over half of pharmacies in Wales to be able to deliver the 'Choose Pharmacy' platform by the end of March next year.

"It should also mean demand is much more appropriately managed so that people who really do need to see a GP have a better prospect of seeing them and also that the GP should then have more time to see those patients."

Warminster salutes Cor Meibion at Rotary fundraiser

ON Saturday, April 1 the choir visited Warminster to perform for the local Rotary club to raise funds for local charities, writes a spokesperson.

Musical director Rhian Jenkins arranged a varied programme (including traditional Welsh songs) to songs from the shows which was very well received by a packed theatre.

The choir started with four well known songs: 'Rachie', 'Gwahoddiad', 'Gweddi 'r Arglwydd', and finally 'Deus Saluti' before soloist Rhian Hughes performed two pieces to start her wonderful performance; these were 'O Mio Bambino Caro' from *Gianni Schicci* and then 'Song to the Moon' from *Rusalka*.

The choir brought the first half to a close with 'Battle Hymn' with the solo being taken by baritone Kevan Lloyd; 'Tell My Father' arranged by Ryan Wood and finally 'Bring Him Home' and 'Bui Doi', both solo parts again by Kevan Lloyd.

The choir started the second half with 'Let All Men Sing' and 'Tangnefeddwy' about the blitz of Swansea during the Second World War, and because of illness 'Working Man' had to be cancelled so Rhian Jenkins and Ryan Wood performed a piano duet, which was very well received by the audience.

Soloist Rhian Hughes then finished her performance with 'Out of my Dreams' from *Oklahoma*, 'What Good Would the Moon Be' from *Street Scene* and finally 'I Could Have Danced All Night' from *My Fair Lady*. Rhian is an excellent singer and I'm sure will be asset to any choir as their soloist.

The choir then brought the concert to an end with 'Troyes Chant', the wonderful 'Ave Verum' and finally the choir's favourite, 'Finlandia'.

Everyone then joined together to sing both national anthems to end a very successful evening of entertainment.

GEM READERS' LETTERS

Welsh Government support needed for autism charity

IT was announced last week that there will be an extra £7m of support given to increase Wales' autism services.

While I welcome more money for autism, I would be keen for some of it to be used to support an autism charity in Cardiff where I regularly attend, called Autism Spectrum Connections Cymru. I recently wrote to Rebecca Evans, Welsh Government Minister for Social Services and Public Health, to consider my proposal for providing funding to this charity.

Autism Spectrum Connections Cymru is a specialist centre that provides an open drop-in service for individuals living with autism in Cardiff and the surrounding area.

This drop-in service is unique, because it provides the facility for individuals living with autism to seek daily advice on issues that occur in every day life. It provides the service users with post diagnostic support, employment workshops, work related support, one-to-one support,

social groups for those who seek new friendships as well as many more issues.

This service is invaluable. It has become a very important part of my life and for many others who also regularly use the service.

The Welsh Government replied to me and I received what was, in my opinion, a very generic response which only raised further questions. As a result, I've launched an online petition calling for the Welsh Government to give funding to this charity.

We wish to seek reassurance that this charity will always remain open and fully funded, which is the key message in this petition. This petition already has over 120 signatures.

The petition can be found at <https://www.change.org/p/welsh-assembly-government-demand-funding-from-the-welsh-government-to-support-autism-spectrum-connections-cymru> Aled Thomas, Penarth.

'Campaign helped fix flawed law' - NSPCC

It's taken two years, but from April 3 the UK Government is enforcing a much-needed law that will make it illegal for adults to send sexual messages to children.

Before this law was put into place, police couldn't arrest adults who groomed young people in Wales and England in this way and could only take action if they met a child.

Our NSPCC 'Flaw in the Law' campaign demanding this change gained widespread support when it was launched with more than 50,000 people calling for action.

The Government passed the anti-grooming law in 2015, but it sat on the statute books for two years without being enacted.

After continuous campaigning from all our supporters, the Secretary of State for Justice, Elizabeth Truss, has taken action and the law is set to be fixed.

From April 3, any

adult caught breaking the law will face up to two years in prison and be automatically placed on the sex offenders' register.

The law will cover will cover both online and offline communication, including social media, email, and letters.

I'd like to take this opportunity to offer a big thank you to everyone who supported our Flaw in the Law campaign over the last few years.

Your commitment and dedication has closed a legal loophole and helped protect a future generation of children from harm.

We know that the fight for safer childhoods is not over, but measures like these make a huge difference in our bid to protect children from all forms of abuse.

Des Mannion,
Head of NSPCC
Cymru/Wales

Balancing gripes on NHS Wales

I write to express my gratitude for the care I received at the Princess of Wales Hospital last Saturday morning; it was excellent!

I hope this note may balance many of the 'gripes' that the press receive and publish!

Thank you to the staff - I award five stars!
John A Morgan, St Athan.

YOUNGSTERS RECOGNISED FOR WORK THEY PUT IN TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

DESERVING youngsters who have devoted themselves to communities across mid-Glamorgan have been awarded over £3,000 at an annual event.

Individuals and groups who have transformed the lives of those in need over the past year were recognised at the High Sheriff Mid-Glamorgan Youth Community awards in Bridgend.

The ceremony took place at Sony UK technology visitor centre and saw a record £3,300 handed out to groups, including the Youth Citizenship Panel and the Eisteddfod group Pen y Dre.

Individuals including Cadet leader Scott Russell, carer Keeley Harries, and first responder Chadley Phillips received awards for their selflessness.

However, the main winners on

the night were Glan Yr Avon explorer unit in the group category, and Rebecca Hughes in the individual category. Each was awarded £1,000 with support from chief sponsors Sony UK TEC.

Director of professional services at Sony, Gerald Kelly, who is a member of the High Sheriff Mid-Glamorgan Youth Community awards, said he was delighted to recognise these "inspirational" youngsters.

Glan Yr Avon Explorer Unit was chosen after supporting a wide range of community and scouting events, with members gaining 18 awards among them.

As the sole choreographer for the Street Flyers community club, Rebecca helped raise £1,200 for two dance shows and was awarded Young Volunteer community award.

She has danced for the Royal Ballet School, represented Wales in the 800m and cross country teams, and supports her younger sister, who suffers with anxiety, with the aid of dance sessions.

This year's award scheme was also exceptional in that it saw founder Anne Morgan, who set up the scheme in 2008, hand over the chairmanship to former High Sheriff Jayne James.

Mrs James said: "As chairman of the High Sheriff Youth Trust committee I am honoured to carry on the vision and commendable work that Anne has achieved for the awards scheme.

"It's wonderful to see young people rewarded for putting 110 per cent into everything they do for their families and local communities."

The Glamorgan GEM • Contact us...

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Police appeal for help to identify suspects



Can you identify either of these men?

POLICE investigating the theft of more than £2,000 from an elderly woman are appealing for the public's help to identify two men captured on CCTV.

Officers would like to speak to two men in connection with the theft, which occurred at Barclays Bank on Dunraven Place, Bridgend, on February 24.

A 71-year-old woman withdrew cash from the ATM outside the bank before visiting shops and returning home. It was then that she noticed her bank card was missing and contacted the bank to cancel the card. The following day, she discovered more than £2,000 had been withdrawn from her

account. Sergeant Bernard Sullivan said: "This is a particularly cruel theft which has seen thousands of pounds taken from the account of an elderly victim."

"We believe the woman was watched as she withdrew cash from the machine and was deliberately targeted. We are keen to catch those responsible as soon as possible, before anyone else falls victim."

"We're appealing for the public's help to identify the two people captured on CCTV."

Anyone who recognises either of the men pictured should contact South Wales Police on 101, or Crimestoppers free and anonymously on 0800 555 111, quoting occurrence 1700071782.

£5,000 boost for carers' centre

BRIDGEND Carers Centre has received £5,000 to fund life coaching sessions for unpaid carers in Bridgend County Borough.

The donation was provided by the Santander Foundation, which offers Discovery Grants to UK-registered charities for projects that help disadvantaged people in local communities.

Bridgend Carers Centre provide information, advice and assistance to unpaid carers who support family, friends, partners and neighbours who are ill, elderly, have a physical disability or learning disability including those with mental health and/or substance misuse issues.

Carers are often tired and stressed and have often given up education and work to care. The grant will give these unpaid carers a chance to re-evaluate their lives and to reach their full potential. Whether carers

need direction with lifestyle, wellbeing, learning or employment opportunities, life coaching can make a big difference to their lives.

Helen Pitt, manager at Bridgend Carers Centre said: "We are delighted to receive a grant from Santander Foundation. Carers often put the person they care for first and neglect their own health, wellbeing and aspirations. Life Coaching allows carers to take time to care for themselves, talk to a professional coach, identify what else they want out of life and set realistic goals."

Amy Slack, manager at the Santander Foundation, said: "The Foundation makes hundreds of donations every year to good causes throughout the UK. Our branch is committed to playing a key part in the community and we are delighted to be supporting Bridgend Carers Centre and hope the donation makes a real difference to local people."

An over-50s group in Cefn Glas A NEW and exciting over-50s group is starting in Cefn Glas!

There will be a variety of different activities and you can have a say in what we do. Come along to the Westward Community Centre on April 21, 2017 at 2pm and enjoy a chat and a cuppa.

RESIDENTIAL SCHEMES SET FOR FORMER SCHOOL SITES

LINC Cymru Housing Association (Linc) has announced it will be developing two new extra care and residential care schemes in Bridgend with the support from top 100 UK law firm, Hugh James.

The not-for-profit organisation, which specialises in the affordable housing, social care and health sectors in Wales, is working in partnership with Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and Welsh Government to create the new 86,500 square foot sites.

Situated at the former Archbishop McGrath Comprehensive site in Ynysawdre and the former lower Maesteg Comprehensive site, the schemes will be made up of 106 units and will comprise a mixture of general needs housing and housing for people aged 55 and over.

Construction work is due to commence in April 2017 and is set to be completed by September 2018. The developments will contribute to the Welsh Government's agenda to deliver 20,000 affordable homes over the next four years.



Pictured at the Extra Care groundbreaking ceremony held at the Ynysawdre site are (left to right): Huw Irranca Davies AM; Coun Hailey Townsend, cabinet member for wellbeing and future generations; Mayor Reg Jenkins; Coun Lyn Morgan; Coun Phil White, cabinet member for social services and early help; Council Leader Huw David, and Robert Smith, chief executive of Linc Cymru.

'Real danger is the road that cuts through Broadlands'

I REFER to your article in The GEM OF March 30.

I sympathise wholeheartedly with your reader Mr Byrne, with his fear of loss of life on the roundabout into Broadlands from the A48.

However, he omits the other real danger which is posed by the road that cuts through Broadlands to link with the A473.

This road has two roundabouts, both of which can often be seen to have tyre marks across them and broken trees where drivers speed through the estate and can't navigate the roundabouts properly.

They drive like lunatics with their oversize exhaust systems making the area sound like a Formula One racetrack and at speeds well in excess of the

speed limit.

The drivers are mainly young drivers who have little driving experience and therefore cause a grave danger to pedestrians, cyclists and other road users.

These speed merchants use this road at all hours of the day and night and I have yet to see any Police presence or any action taken against these individuals, not just for speeding and reckless driving but for driving cars that are unroadworthy as they have been modified illegally.

This road needs traffic speed reduction systems in place as soon as possible in line with the other roads in Broadlands and the legal speed limit should also be reduced (Name and address supplied.)

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Toy donations are needed for MC Centre

A BRIDGEND opticians is urging people to donate their preloved toys to a new centre – aimed at supporting vulnerable local children and their families.

Specsavers in Bridgend has already donated furniture to a counselling room at the Mulligan Community (MC) Centre Bridgend, which hosts services for the most disadvantaged and in need.

Ahead of a second site opening in spring at the former Tondur Ironworks, named 'MC Centre Parc Tondur', the Adare Street opticians is now organising a toy drive for the MC Centre Bridgend's toy library.

"As soon as we became aware of the plans for the new MC Centre and understood its long-term vision for Bridgend and Tondur, we knew we had to do our bit to help," said Carly Hickson, store manager.

"Equipping the counselling room signified our firm commitment to enhancing this community service. Now, we're hoping Bridgend's residents will join us, by digging

out their unwanted but well-looked-after toys."

The MC Centres provide families and individuals with vital support groups and services, in a bid to stamp out poverty and social exclusion.

When Doug and Dame Mary Perkins, Specsavers' founders, heard about the centre's plans, they donated £1,000 to the cause and suggested the centre contact the Bridgend store.

"I was overwhelmed by the generosity of Mr Perkins and Dame Mary and of the subsequent support from the Bridgend store," said Amanda Kirk, director of Mulligan Community.

"It's fantastic to know that local community businesses believe in what we are doing and want to leave their mark on the MC Centres. I hope it inspires others to do likewise."

Anyone wishing to donate used toys that are in good condition, for newborns through to teenagers, should drop them into Specsavers at Bridgend before April 30.

PORTHCAWL MUSEUM NOW REOPENS AND LOOKS AT THE TOWN'S MARITIME HISTORY



*Continued from page 1.
A peek inside the reopened Porthcawl Museum. (All photos by David Swidenbank).*



Porthcawl mayor, Coun Rob Lee, Ceri Joseph and Mrs Lee.



Coun Rob and Mrs Lee, Coun Reg and Mrs Jenkins.



Asda donate to Mulligan Community

A LOCAL non-profit community interest company in Bridgend has received a generous donation of £10,000 from the Asda Foundation, to fit out a wheelchair friendly training kitchen.

Mulligan Community's 'MC Centres' assist families and individuals in making connections with friends and the community so by offering social support and a place of belonging to their local area.

Mulligan Community was set up to stamp out poverty and social exclusion in Wales; one of the many free services

they will be offering is their free Nutrition Skills for Life weekly cooking groups to all the community, teaching people how to cook, portion sizes and healthy eating.

Focused on building stronger communities, Mulligan Community constantly reinforces their foundational values of: social inclusion, equal opportunity, confidence building, respect and positivity.

The application to the Asda Foundation by Mulligan Community was supported by store colleagues at the Asda store at Coychurch Road Gardens in Bridgend.

The money donated by the Asda Foundation will go towards their new community training

kitchen, with provisions for wheelchair users, for example by lowering the work surfaces area.

Amanda Kirk, director at Mulligan Community, said: "We're absolutely delighted to be receiving this donation from the Asda Foundation."

"As we cater for a wide range of user groups, it is important that we have an outstanding facility that is not only fit for purpose, but also user friendly and functional."

"It is incredibly beneficial to us as a community to work with and be supported by local businesses such as Asda."

Julie Ward, Asda Foundation senior manager, said: "Supporting local applications such as Mulligan Community is really important to us – and we hope it will make a real difference within the local community in Bridgend."

To find out more about the Asda Foundation, or eligibility for submitting a funding application, please contact the Community Champion at your local Asda store, or go to: charities.asda.com/asda-foundation/ or for more information on Mulligan Community and where their 'MC Centres' are, go to mulligancommunity.org.

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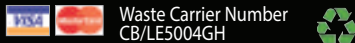
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Mental health 'link' to re-offending

MENTAL health problems are the reasons some criminals habitually re-offend and find themselves in prison time and time again, said Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon.

She told the Commons that one way to cut re-offending would be to look at how many people are 'revolving door' entrants and leavers of prison – not because of criminal intent, but because their mental health condition drives them to behave in a way

that leads them to the police and into the criminal justice system.

They end up in prison, rather than in psychiatric hospitals, which were overcrowded and underfunded.

Mrs Moon said the police are becoming social workers for the mentally ill.

Conservative MP Robert Neill said that Moon follows these issues closely and had made a very fair and reasonable point.

"That is a significant factor," he said.

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Man (50) had 549 indecent images of children on home computer

More than 500 pornographic pictures of children, some as young as four, were discovered by police officers when they examined computers being used by a Penarth man, Cardiff Crown Court has heard, writes AJ SICLUNA.

David Parton (50) of Windsor Road, was said by Recorder Simon Mills to "have some sort of sexual fetish for spanking".

Parton, a man with no previous convictions, admitted three charges of possessing indecent pictures of children and one of distributing an indecent photograph.

Prosecutor David Pugh said that police went to Parton's home on September 5 last year, where he lived with his wife. He showed officers that he had uploaded movies and pictures of children.

He was cautioned, and he made no reply. A number of computers were removed and examined and a total of 549 indecent images were found – 44 of category A, the most serious; 112 of category B and 397 of category C. Parton later told the police: "I am looking at jail time."

He admitted that he had been viewing images for four or five years

and had an interest in spanking. He said he had never wanted to actually participate in such activity and needed help.

Mr Pugh said Parton had been remanded in custody because there had been a danger of him self-harming.

Before mitigation by his counsel, Kevin Seal, the Recorder said he had read a moving letter from Parton's wife.

Mr Seal said he had been in custody since March 7 and was the first to acknowledge he must be punished. He said his wife did not condone his behaviour in any way but she, an intelligent person, was prepared to support him.

The Recorder pointed out Parton had made admissions from the start, assisted the police, expressed remorse and pleaded guilty at the first opportunity.

He was jailed for 12 months, suspended for two years and ordered to carry out 100 hours unpaid work, be subject to a Sexual Harm Prevention Order for 10 years and to register as a sex offender for 10 years.

It was ordered that his computer equipment be forfeited.

MAESTEG CARE HOME IS PRAISED IN 'YOUR CARE' RATING SURVEY



A MAESTEG care home has been given a high performance rating in a nationwide survey of care home residents.

Team members, residents, and relatives at Bryn Celyn, have celebrated the results – which show the specialist residential and nursing care home was given an overall performance rating score of 91 per cent – the national average is 88 per cent.

Now in its fifth year, the Your Care Rating survey is the country's largest and most comprehensive survey of care home residents. The nationwide survey gives residents a voice, and is

an insight into how well care homes perform. Over 18,000 residents in 914 care homes across the UK took part in the 2016 survey.

Residents surveyed said that they were happy with the care and support they received, and that team members treated them with kindness, dignity and respect.

Mary Richard, general manager at Bryn Celyn said: "It's great that our residents value the care they receive at Bryn Celyn. Our scores across all four themes are really positive, which show that the people who matter most, our residents, are very happy with the care they receive."

The staff at Bryn Celyn Care Home in Maesteg celebrating their successful rating.

Bridgend Astronomy Corner correction

BRIDGEND Astronomical Society apologises for the error in last week's Astronomy Corner in which their April 2018 meeting was advertised instead of that for April 2017.

The April 2017 meeting will be held at Pyle Church on Friday, April 14, at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Dr Robert Owen, former keeper of the National Museum. Dr Owen, an expert on our solar system, will be discussing 'Planet 9.'



Madeleine Moon MP (centre) with representatives of the Royal British Legion in Wales.

MP helps to spread the word about work of British Legion

MADELEINE MOON MP recently met The Royal British Legion's Wales area manager, Antony Metcalfe, to discuss support for the Armed Forces community in Wales.

Mrs Moon said: "I enjoyed meeting beneficiaries and staff from The Royal British Legion and learning more about the work being done in my local area. Members of the Armed Forces community make huge sacrifices in the service of our country.

"I am proud to support the work of the Legion in honouring the memory of the fallen and building a better future for the living."

Last year in Wales, the Legion provided more than £500,000 in

grants to support members of the Armed Forces community and engaged with almost 6,500 people directly via its high street Pop in centres and community outreach.

The Legion's own handy van service, 'poppy calls', also completed 2,350 jobs across Wales, helping people in their own homes to live independently and with the support they require.

Mr Metcalfe said: "The Royal British Legion offers a range of welfare support all year round, and in 2015/16, we responded to over a million requests for help – more than ever before."

"This event offered a great opportunity to spread the word about the range of services that we provide in Wales."



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Relatives could not pay for a funeral after carer stole from elderly man

by AJ SICLUNA

A CARER who systematically stole more than £8,000 from two elderly men he was entrusted to look after has been jailed for 10 months at Cardiff Crown Court.

The grief-stricken relatives of one of the victims were left devastated when they found they could not pay for his funeral after £6,600 had been taken from his bank account.

Richard Riordan (31) of Teilo's Drive, Brackla, Bridgend, admitted two charges of theft.

Prosecutor John Warren said Riordan worked for Gabriel's Care of Barry and systematically stole money from two vulnerable clients.

One, Christopher Williams (78), who had a degree of palsy, speech difficulties and limited mobility, had a support worker who looked at his bank statements and saw that large amounts of cash had been taken from him.

The bank had also texted Mr Williams indicating that there had been suspicious transactions.

Enquiries were made and Riordan was suspended.

Mr Williams said that no-one had permission to take money.

It was believed, said Mr Warren, that Riordan had viewed and memorised Mr Williams's bank card PIN number and this had been the catalyst for eight or nine transactions involving a loss of £1,790.

Police made further enquiries which led them to Mr Brian Murray, who died last July aged 66.

"He was an amputee," said Mr Warren, "and used a wheelchair. Riordan was his principal carer and the two got on extremely well."

In December 2015, Riordan offered to do his shopping and Mr Murray gave him his bank card.

The police later examined his bank account and found that Riordan had made a number of transactions resulting in the loss to Mr Murray of £6,621.

When Riordan was arrested, he admitted stealing from Mr Murray, but denied stealing from Mr Williams.

A victim's personal statement was made by Mr Murray's sister-in-law, Sharon Murray, on behalf of the family in which she said Mr Murray was a hardworking husband,

father and brother.

As his wife died from cancer at just 41, his health deteriorated and his family put a care plan in place for him.

Later, she said, he took an overdose and never recovered.

She said that because of the "pure greed" of Riordan, the family didn't even have the money for a funeral.

Riordan did not tell the police how he had used the cash.

The Recorder, Simon Miller, assured the family that they should feel no guilt concerning Mr Murray, and said they had in no way done anything wrong.

Riordan was said to have a previous conviction of battery and theft concerning when he was working at Cardiff Airport in May 2015 and was spotted on CCTV pocketing cash.

His counsel, Owen Williams, said: "It is accepted there was a high gross degree of breach of trust, and he has realised he caused harm to the victims and their families."

He said that having read the evidence, Riordan realised the extent of his wrongdoing.

"He is motivated to change and better himself," said Mr Williams.

The Recorder pointed out Mr Riordan's behaviour had harmed both families and that only immediate custodial sentence could be passed.

Porthcawl artist's triumph at Cowbridge Art Society competition



From left: Bee Lilli and Heather Parnell.

ON March 30, Cowbridge Art Society held its annual competition for members.

From a very strong collection of around 40 artworks in numerous media, the winner was Porthcawl artist, retired psychotherapist Bee Lilli with her painting 'Locks Common to Sker House and the Steelworks'.

Bee paints mostly in acrylics on large canvases but also experiments with other media and techniques.

She has exhibited at Nolton Gallery,

Bridgend, Llanover Hall, The Synnecdd, Bute Street Gallery, Off the Wall

Gallery Llandaf, Castell Coch and many others. She has sold work internationally and has

also had paintings shortlisted for the Royal West Academy open show. The competition and critique were adjudicated by art lecturer and curator Heather Parnell.

The society welcomes artists of any level, and also non artists who would like to see demonstrations of various art techniques or attend illustrated lectures on Art topics. We meet on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm - 9 pm) and occasional visitors and new members are most welcome.

For details of the society's programme and activities see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com and www.facebook.com/cowbridgeart.sci?ref=bookmarks.

Village hall seeks honorary secretary

WICK and Monkash Village Hall urgently requires an honorary secretary to take up the post at the AGM in June.

If you think you can contribute to the running of the village hall, please apply to Ben Wooding (honorary chairman) on 01656 890237 as soon as possible.

Wick and Monkash Village Hall is very busy, with numerous activities taking place each week.

It is a self-funding charitable organisation run by trustees who are very proud of their hall. The position will become vacant because of the retirement of the present honorary secretary.

For all the latest news from your area -
glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Patients' book of poetry is dedicated to inspirational Liz



Liz Baker.

A BOOK of poems co-written by patients at Morriston Hospital has been dedicated to the memory of one of its creative forces.

Loving Gratitude is a collaboration between patients in the hospital's renal unit, a nurse and award-winning poet and songwriter Cheryl Beer.

It came about as part of ABMU's 'arts in health' programme, which "looks to incorporate the arts into all health board services for the benefit of patients as well as visitors and staff."

Arts in health coordinator Prue Thimbleby teamed up with renal services lead nurse Liz Baker, who was originally from Barry, to organise a project which would see Cheryl Beer work with patients having dialysis at Morriston Hospital.

Cheryl visited 56 patients over

RIGHT:
At the *Loving Gratitude* launch are (from left) harpist Delyth Jenkins, ABMU arts in health coordinator Prue Thimbleby and poet Cheryl Beer



an eight-month period during their treatments, working one to one.

Prue said: "She sat down to chat with patients, then took snippets of what they said and read it back to them as poetry."

"The patients didn't actually put pen to paper."

"They talked to Cheryl and she took phrases and sentences so it became a poem between them."

"Often when Cheryl read the poem back to the patient they said things like 'that's exactly right - you have captured it perfectly'. It is effective because it is a shared writing process."

During the project a theme began to emerge: the gratitude of patients towards their family and carers, to the medical teams, to having access to treatment and, ultimately, the gift of life.

Liz Baker died last month after a short illness, just weeks before *Loving Gratitude's* official launch at Morriston Hospital.

Liz was a nurse for 38 years, 32

of them spent at Morriston Hospital. During this time she established and built up the network of renal services across south west Wales.

More recently, she led on the modernisation of facilities for renal patients in Morriston Hospital. She also helped to develop an MSc syllabus at Cardiff University.

"The anthology, subtitled *The Poetics of Renal Dialysis*, is dedicated to Liz's memory."

Her family and friends were invited to the launch.

Liz's sister Angela Baker said: "This wonderful book of poetry is a fitting tribute to our dear sister Liz, who dedicated her life to the care of her patients."

Copies of the book are available from Prue (Prue.Thimbleby@wales.nhs.uk) for £3, with proceeds supporting future arts projects for renal patients.



Year-3 children experiencing Google Expeditions using virtual-reality headsets.

Virtually an education for Oldcastle Primary pupils

OLDCASTLE Primary School pupils had a Google Expeditions 'experience' on March 30, when children from years 1- 6 had their lessons brought to life.

Children have been imagining coral reefs, underwater life, the surface of Mars and journeys into space, as well as finding out more about history.

With Google Expeditions, teachers were able to take pupils

on an 'immersive', virtual journey in the classroom.

The experience allowed teachers to act as a 'guide' to lead groups of 'explorers' through collections of 360° and 3D images, while pointing out interesting sights along the way.

"The experience has been wonderful to allow children the opportunity to experience a different way of learning," said Janine Wright, teacher at Oldcastle Primary School.

"Younger children were able to watch the 360° photography on small devices while the older children were able to immerse themselves in virtual reality (VR) headsets."

The pupils will be able to use the virtual reality technology as part of their learning process with the use of VR headsets, and the school's '4D immersive' room.



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Porthcawl and the First World War: April 1917

The Rest Home.



Fenton Place.



Porthcawl railway station.



Ceri Joseph of Porthcawl Museum continues her look at Porthcawl during World War One. This week she looks at April 1917.

Following the cessation of hostilities at the Somme in November 1916, fighting on the Western Front had been relatively quiet.

However, April 1917 would witness the start of the Battle of Arras. From April 9 to May 16, 1917, British, Canadian, and Australian troops attacked German trenches near the French city of Arras. The aim of the campaign was for the British Army to mount diversionary attacks near Arras to draw German troops away from the main target, which was the Chemin des Dames Ridge near Champagne.

The intention was for the French Army to attack this area hoping for the much-needed breakthrough of the German lines.

Tragically, the success of both initiatives would prove costly. At Arras, the battle turned into a stalemate with the British sustaining 160,000

casualties and the Germans 125,000; yet at Chemin des Dames, the French would not only suffer 187,000 losses but the whole offensive at the River Aisne eventually led to the mutinying of French troops on May 5. Consequently, Philippe Petain replaced Robert Nivelle as Commander in Chief of the French army.

In Porthcawl, the offensive at Arras would claim the lives of three Porthcawlians and one would be awarded the Military Medal. Lieutenant Juan Manuel Aldana was born, one of twin boys on October 7, 1894 at Fulham to Colombian Abelardo, a foreign consul for a number of Latin countries at Cardiff, and Eliza Aldana (née Halladay), of Southampton.

The family had lived in Cardiff before moving to 'Angamos' South Road, Porthcawl before the war. Juan received his formative education at Llandaff Cathedral School and Worcester King's School before going on to Keble College, Oxford.

His brother Antonio died after many years of ill health in 1913, aged

18 years old. After the outbreak of war in 1914, Aldana volunteered for the British Army and was commissioned into the Worcestershire Regiment, as an acting lieutenant. The regiment was posted to France in July 1916, where Juan was wounded on October 20, 1916 at the Transloy Ridges, during the Battle of the Somme.

The following year, during the Arras offensive, while in command of a company of the 4th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment, Lieutenant Aldana was mortally wounded as a result of a

bombardment of German shells, and died the following day (April 21, 1917. Lt Aldana is buried at Feuchy Chapel, British Cemetery and also remembered on the family grave in Newton churchyard. His commanding officer wrote: "His death day was the first time he was in the line in command of a company, and his work was thoroughly well done."

After his death his parents moved to 32 Park Avenue, Porthcawl. Their previous address must have held too many sad

memories.

Sub-Lieutenant Reginald Vaughan Cleves, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, Hood Battalion, fell on April 23, 1917, at the second Battle of Scarpe in which his division captured Gavrelle.

Winston Churchill formed the Royal Naval Volunteer Division in 1914. Reginald had enlisted in the navy in 1912, as an apprentice; but with the onset of war many recruits found themselves additional to the needs of the fleet.

As a result they hated the idea of being turned into soldiers and kept naval traditions by naming their naval brigades after famous admirals such as Drake, Nelson, Anson, Collingwood, Benbow, Hawke, Howe and Hood.

As the 63rd (RN) Division they saw action on the Western Front, and by the end of the war had suffered casualties amounting to 1,965 officers and 44,829 other ranks; of which 445 officers and 7,102 'other ranks' were killed.

Sub-Lt Cleves had been born in Cardiff on November 25, 1896; the only child of Mr and Mrs Frederick Vaughan Cleves. Before the war, the family had moved to 39 Fenton Place, Porthcawl, whereupon on June 3, 1916 (the day the Venables Llewelyn Lodge had been consecrated at New Road, Porthcawl) his father Frederick Vaughan Cleves was installed as treasurer. Reginald himself had also been initiated at the first meeting on July 1.

Aged 21 when he died, Sub-Lt Cleves was buried at the Caberet Rouge, British Cemetery Souchez, Pas De Calais, France. Tragically, on the day Reginald's parents received the news of his death they also received news of Frederick's brother, first officer Mercantile Marine, Charles Edward Cleves, SS Torrington, who had drowned as a result of a German submarine attack on April 9, 1917.

The Torrington was on a voyage from Savona to Barry in ballast when she was sunk by the German submarine U-55, 150 miles southwest of the

Scilly Islands. A total of 34 persons perished that day.

Arthur Cecil Avenell also served at Arras. Following the death of his father Stephen in 1910, Cecil and his mother, Eliza, moved from Marlborough, Wiltshire to 28 Suffolk Place, Porthcawl.

Having initially worked for the GWR at Bridgend, Cecil followed his brothers into the military by enlisting in the 6th Wiltshire Yeomanry on March 28, 1912. His brother Edward was a sergeant major in the Welch Regiment, in which he served 25 years, while brothers Charles and Reginald were both in the Glamorgan Yeomanry.

All the Avenell brothers survived the war, with Corporal Reginald Avenell ending up as a Chelsea Pensioner at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

During the Battle of Arras Cecil was promoted to Corporal on April 14, distinguishing himself further in being awarded the Military Medal on May 6.

However, the following year on January 31 at Cambrai Corporal Avenell received a bullet wound to the left leg which resulted in his leg being amputated eight inches above the knee.

During his long recovery, he was transferred from one hospital to another, before eventually being transferred to the St John's Auxiliary Hospital, Porthcawl (The Rest Home) in February 1919.

Cecil was fitted with an artificial limb in September 1919 and



The French cemetery near Chemin Des Dames.



Lieutenant Juan Manuel Aldana.

married Stella Hartery in 1920. Cecil died in March 1970, aged 78. It is interesting to note that when Cecil had been shot in the thigh in January 1918, his wound had been one of the first X-rays taken by Madame Curie and her daughter, who travelled the field hospitals in France trialling their new invention.

Apart from the sad news from Arras, April in Porthcawl, itself was mainly quiet. Allotments around the town were being dug and seeded, with several tons of early seed potatoes arriving at retailers.

Samuel Hawkins, a collier, riding home from north Cornwall was fined 5s for riding a bicycle without a light; while Isaac Heath, a milk vendor, was summoned for selling hay to Arthur Wisby, also a milk vendor, without the consent of the Army Council.

On Monday, April 22 in the Ladies' Committee that oversaw food economy in the town held a meeting at the Council Chamber, whereupon it was decided to ask the council to lend gas stoves for the purpose of instructing housewives in the cooking of substitute foodstuffs for milk, sugar, bread, eggs, marmalade, cocoa, and chocolate; all of which tasted quite poor compared to the real thing.

Finally, it was reported in the Porthcawl News on April 26 that two members of the Porthcawl Town Council "... wait upon the assistant secretary of the Great Western Railway, Tondur, to arrange for the use of the urinal at the old station."

It is hoped that they didn't have too long to wait.

BRIDGEND PLANNING

Mr and Mrs Burford - 7 Maes Tal Coed, Broadlands - Single storey side extension.

Mrs Margaret Thompson - 20 Bower Street, Kenfig Hill - Hardstanding and alteration to existing ramped access to front garden.

Mr Mark Filer - 13 Llan Road, Cwmfelin, Maesteg - Two storey extension to rear elevation.

Mr and Mrs John - 2 South Place, Bridgend - Single storey rear extension.

Mr Paul Guild - 62 Salisbury Road, Maesteg - Loft extension, new front porch, replace existing bay window with main roof construction work over, new render and boarding to elevation, new garage and parking to front.

Mr Ross Bassett - Next to 24 Bryndu Road, Kenfig Hill - Detached dormer bungalow and detached garage.

Mr Ray Martin - 20 Orchard Drive, Newton, Porthcawl - Single storey bedroom extension for registered disabled person.

Celtic Energy Ltd - Former Margam Surface Mine, Cefn Cribwr - Approval of details for conditions 22 and 24 of P/16/128/FUL.

Mr and Mrs Wilson - 39 Heol y Fronfraith Fawr, Broadlands - Porch to front and extend ground floor to rear to enlarge kitchen/diner/living area.

Mr J Morgan - 12 Ty Isaf Road, Cefn Cribwr - Side porch extension.

Mr J David - Land fronting Waterton Lane, Waterton - Approval of details for conditions 2, 3, 6, 7, 9 and 1 of P/16/395/RES.

Arup - Sandy Bay, Porthcawl Coastal Defences - EIA screening opinion request.

Mr Stephen Edward - 28 Greenmeadow, Cefn Cribwr - Single storey rear extension.

Mr Shaun Middleton - Land north of Bryngarw Farm, Brynmenyn - Proposed block of four stables.

Mr Daniel Clarke - 25 Graham Avenue, Penyfael - Extend existing dormer to create additional bedroom on first floor and additional window above internal stairs to provide better lighting.

Awen Cultural Trust - Bryngarw Country Park, Brynmenyn - Two flagpoles to be erected outside the visitor centre displaying the Welsh national flag and the Green Flag award flag.

Mr Andrew O'Neill - 65 Coychurch Road, Pencoeed - Proposed rear extension.

Mr Chris Stephens - 16 Golden Terrace, Maesteg - Retention of screening and balcony area to rear flat roof.

Village Farm Industrial Estate, Pyle - Approval of details for condition 2 and advisory note 3b of P/16/507/FUL.

Mr Daniel Shearan - Units 6 and 7, Heol Ty Gwyn Industrial Estate, Maesteg - Change of use of existing vacant warehouse into D2 Leisure use.

Mr Steve Lambert - 26 Heol Castell Coety, Litchard - Erection of rear ground floor extension with two roof lights.

HD Ltd - 2 Caroline Street, Bridgend - Proposed alterations and improvements and three storey service extension to rear of property.

Mr Grant Epton - 88 Y Ysfa, Maesteg - Proposed two storey extension to side of property.

BCBC education and support - Ysgol Bryn Castell, Brynethin Campus, Heol Llan, Abergarw, Bridgend - Security fence around fire escape staircase to sports hall.

Mr Eurof Davies - Rear of 55 Suffolk Place, Porthcawl - Demolish garage and construct one-bed dwelling and new parking arrangements for ground floor flat to existing house.

Mr Andrew Murphy - Plot 1, Abergarw Farm site, Brynmenyn - Reserved matters to P/14/742/OUT for five-bed dwelling with garage.

Woodcraft - 82 Heol Mostyn,

'Will people have access to justice if they have appalling broadband?' ASKS MP

MADELEINE Moon fears many people in the Bridgend constituency will not be able to access 'virtual court hearings' via the Internet because of poor broadband speeds.

The Bridgend MP was responding in the Commons to a suggestion from Lord Chancellor Elizabeth Truss that virtual hearings will enable people to use online videos, so that they do not need to travel to attend court.

Many magistrates' courts have closed, and Ms Truss said the online service is reducing travel needs and that victims

and witnesses have more access to the justice process.

But Mrs Moon said that might not work in all parts of her constituency.

She told Ms Truss: "Transferred online communications are wonderful if people have access to quality broadband, but communities in parts of my constituency have broadband that is as slow as 25 per cent of capability."

"How will people be able to gain access to justice when they cannot possibly do anything online because of appalling broadband?"

Ms Truss said the Government is doing a lot to improve broadband across the country.

She told Mrs Moon: "The online system is not mandatory – the paper process will be available. I have been looking recently at virtual hearings that are taking place across the country."

"In some areas there is very high take-up of these hearings because being able to use broadband helps people in rural areas who have long distances to travel to get to court."

Ms Truss said the Prisons and Courts Bill will extend the use of video links from virtual hearings, which will allow victims to take part in cases without having to meet their alleged attacker face to face.

MICHAEL PROSSER

by **TIM CHAPMAN**
If you have a story, please email **editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk** or call **01446 774484**.

GlastonBARRY'S 'Big Top' tribute selling out fast!



Mack Events are getting the UK's top tribute bands to Barry, including eleven piece band – 'The Stevie Wonder Experience'

GLASTONBARRY, the town's nationally famous tribute festival, will have a 4,000-person capacity 'big top arena' this July.

People travel from as far away as America, New Zealand and parts of Europe to sample the atmosphere at one of the UK's most popular rock shows.

This year's event takes place at Romilly Park on Saturday, July 29 and Sunday, July 30.

Ross Mackintosh of Mack Events told The GEM: "After announcing the line up for GlastonBARRY Tribute Festival only last month, we have amazingly sold out of the VIP tickets and already sold thousands of 'early bird' weekend discount tickets. We are well on our way to a record sell-out."

He said people keen to attend shouldn't leave it until the last moment to get a ticket otherwise they might miss out.

Matt Blumberg, also of Mack Events, emphasised that the festival was more ambitious than ever.

"The great news is this year we have a huge 4,000 capacity circus big top arena to house everyone, so whatever

the weather everyone is covered.

"We have two stages – a main one and an outside stage as well, a huge selection of food vendors and of course a bar."

"One of the reasons why GlastonBARRY is so popular is how reasonably priced we are. We have done a lot of research and we haven't come across anyone on the UK scene who can match what we are doing."

This year's line-up includes Prince tribute band – 'Purple Rain'; David Bowie tribute – 'Absolute Bowie'; Oasis tribute – 'Oasish'; UB40 tribute – 'Johnny2Bad'; ACDC tribute – 'ACDC UK'; Kings of Leon tribute – 'The Four Kicks'; The Jam tribute – 'The Jamd'; Stereophonics tribute – 'Stereotronics'; Bryan Adams tribute – 'The Bryan Adams Effect'; The Verve tribute – 'Verve UK'; and a Ska tribute to be confirmed.

Back by popular demand from London's West End will be 'The Valli Boys', as well as some popular local cover bands and special guests.

For ticket information, go to www.glastonbarry.com; or call the Box Office at 01446 737339; tickets are also available at The Piccolo Bar, Barry Island.



GlastonBARRY'S 'Big Top'.

Pen-y-Fai WI enjoy Luncheon Club outing

ON March 8, 25 members of Pen-y-Fai WI enjoyed the first meeting of the Luncheon Club at the Pheasant Inn.

The next meeting of the Luncheon Club was arranged for April 12 at The Cottage bistro in Bridgend.

Also during March, the members joined a Glamorgan Federation trip to Cirencester, which included a guided walk around the many interesting buildings of

the town centre. The weather had been extremely kind and a wonderful day was enjoyed by all.

At the monthly meeting on March 20, members were informed that Pen-y-Fai WI will now operate a waiting list for new members. The members were informed that some bulbs had been planted under their tree on the village green in memory of Mavis Hek and Ann Hopson, both formerly from the Pen-y-Fai community.

The speaker for the evening was Sion

Llewellyn, who gave an informative talk on the history and making of 'Love Spoons'. He had been taught by Merlin Maddock, the famous inventor and harp maker from Pontycymmer. Ann Jones gave the vote of thanks.

Members were reminded that next month's meeting will be held on April 10 because of the Easter holidays and will also be the AGM.

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Local newspapers fuel property market activity

LOCAL newspapers are a catalyst for activity in the property market with local press readers far more likely than average to be considering buying or selling property in the next year, according to independent data.

The chief executive of NAEA Propertymark, the National Association of Estate Agents, said that local newspapers will remain a "key platform" for estate agents for many years to come, because they are so effective.

According to TGI, local press is a particularly effective catalyst for young first time buyers with local press readers in their 20s or 30s – millennials – 160 per cent more likely than average to be expecting to purchase their first home in the next 12 months.

Older local press readers are also far more likely than average to be active in

the property market. Local press readers aged in their 30s, 40s or 50s – Generation X – are 74 per cent more likely than average to be expecting to sell or purchase a house or flat in the next 12 months.

According to Consumer Catalyst, local media – local newspapers and their websites – are the most popular source for keeping an eye on the property market with 56 per cent of people citing estate agent ads in local media as their source compared to 37 per cent, the next highest, who cited property websites such as Rightmove or Zoopla.

Local media drives people to take action – 29 per cent of people looked at a property in more detail online after seeing an ad or article in local media.

Mark Hayward, chief executive, NAEA Propertymark, said: "Local newspapers, both print and digital, are an essential platform for estate agents to communicate with the marketplace. They

are highly trusted and, therefore, estate agents rightly see them as effective outlets through which to advertise both properties and the wider services they offer.

"This is important for estate agents who, like local papers, are a part of the communities they serve.

The media landscape is changing but local newspapers will remain a key platform for estate agents and will continue to have a central role to play in property marketing for many years to come."

Local press Gen X readers are 156 per cent more likely to have responded to a residential property classified ad while local press millennial readers are 171 per cent more likely to have responded to a residential property classified ad, and are 121 per cent more likely to have placed one, according to TGI.

British Legion recruits nurses to tackle dementia

THE Royal British Legion is recruiting more Admiral Nurses in Wales to provide additional support to families caring for a loved one with dementia.

Paula Smith, the Legion's Admiral Nurse national lead, said: "The commitment to recruiting new nurses to the Royal British Legion reflects the fact that there is a genuine need to provide more support for families living with dementia in Wales. This will have a really positive impact on the quality of care our

patients receive."

The Royal British Legion Admiral Nurses offer specialist support, information and advice to the carers of people with dementia.

The service has been developed in partnership with Dementia UK, the national charity that provides specialist dementia support for families through Admiral Nursing.

To qualify for support, the carer or the person with dementia needs to be a beneficiary of the Royal British Legion, which includes anyone who has served in the British Armed Forces, their family and their carers.

The Royal British Legion recognises that, with an aging population, there is a need for further investment in dementia care amongst the Armed

Forces community.

There are almost 200 Admiral Nurses in the UK working in a variety of care settings and they work on some of the most complex cases and provide expert one-to-one practical, clinical and emotional support.

Admiral Nurses are the specialists working in dementia care to focus on improving the physical, psychological and emotional wellbeing of both the carer and the person with dementia.

Paula Smith said: "I feel immensely proud to be an Admiral Nurse because, each day, I have an opportunity to make a real difference, whilst the support of the Royal British Legion and Dementia UK helps us to deliver care where it is most needed."

To apply, visit: www.britishlegion.org.uk/about-us/jobs/

Speaker's talk on the history of Dyffryn Gardens

THE chairman of Barry Men's Forum welcomed the return of the speaker, Gweryl Gardener, who talked about the local National Trust's newly acquired Dyffryn Estate house and gardens.

The earliest records are of a house at Dyffryn back in the 7th century, but the earliest history of residents she had been able to trace was in the 16th century, when Miles Button, an influential member of Queen Elizabeth I's retinue bought the estate.

One of his four sons, Sir Thomas Button, who was later knighted, followed a successful career in the Royal Navy, rising to the rank of Admiral, alongside the more famous Raleigh. The family supported the Royalists, lost their vast fortune, and had to sell up.

It was purchased by Thomas Pryce, an early iron master, who made his money largely by selling muskets. Due to a lack of heirs, the estate passed to the Rev Thomas Bruce, whose family is well recorded in the church at St Nicholas.

The more recent

occupants were the Cory family. They came from humble beginnings, with a sailing vessel trading around the coast.

Richard Cory recognised the developments taking place at Cardiff and moved his family from Bideford.

Setting up in Cardiff as a ships' chandler, his business quickly developed to shipping coal, before he was able to purchase coal mines.

The firm was then inherited by his two sons. It was John Cory who purchased Dyffryn in 1891, soon after his successful involvement with the development of Barry Docks.

Reginald Cory, his son, roamed the world as a 'plant hunter', bringing back many exotic species for the gardens, which remain for us to view to this day.

The next meeting is on April 13, when speaker Sally Mayle will talk about the Bayeux Tapestry.

New members are welcome at £2 per meeting, which includes light refreshments and starts at 10.15am at the Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall, every Thursday morning.

For further information, contact chairman Mac Tanner on 01446 743455. PMW

Penarth Aviation Society
THE next meeting of the Penarth Aviation Society will be held on Friday, April 7 at 8pm in the Penarth Conservative Club.

The subject this month is 'The Up and Down History of VTOL development' when society member Mike Duxbury will reveal his findings on the progress of vertical take off and landing over the last century and possible future developments in this field.

Why not join the society? We meet on the first Friday of the month at the Penarth Conservative Club. See www.penarthaviationsociety.co.uk or contact secretary Barrie Howell on 02921 322385.

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trust and therefore **consumer response**, giving you **better value for money** alongside the peace of mind of a **safe** advertising placement.

Maintaining the **integrity** of our content and our advertising environment is fundamental to us, and local news brands have always scored extremely well for trust. This was validated by a recent Comscore survey of UK Internet users - people said they trusted content on local news sites almost three times more than they did on social media.

Today we publish our **online advertising charter** (available at ixl.co.uk/adcharter). The purpose of this is to ensure our advertisers are given the chance to see the standards and processes we work in in order to **guarantee** that they get the **transparency, trust and value** that we believe they deserve.

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Jail sentence for Brackla man who dealt class A drug

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
"Dealing in Class A drugs crosses this line. The court sees, day after day, offences committed under the influence of drugs."

Prosecutor David Pugh said that police went to Hooper's home to carry out a "welfare check", saw the defendant slouched on the sofa and found cocaine and cannabis. Text messages found on his mobile phone confirmed he was dealing.

Solicitor Robert Chudleigh said Hooper was deeply upset and ashamed.

He had become a daily user of cocaine and his debts gradually built up.

"He realises he's been a perilous risk to himself. He has strong associations to the community and everyone speaks highly of him."

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Some of the Conservative BCBC candidates pictured in Porthcawl.

Conservatives put out a 35-strong team to contest council elections

Battle lines are being drawn up by contenders hoping to wrest control of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) from Labour at May's elections.

And the latest to enter the fray are local Conservatives who are fielding 35 candidates – more than ever before. They will be contesting seats across the borough but especially in Bridgend, Brackla, Porthcawl and Pencoed.

Campaign manager Alex Williams said they would seek to reverse Labour's controversial two-bag refuse collection policy.

He said: "I am shocked that this Labour-run council has signed a new seven-year contract for refuse collection knowing that the elections are just around the corner. This is a blatant attempt by them to tie the hands of any in-coming administration."

"We will seek to renegotiate the contract with the successful bidder so that we can scrap the two bag limit and the £75 fines they want to impose for failing to comply."

"Instead, we will introduce an incentive scheme to reward people for recycling instead of punishing them for not doing so."

"We will also simplify the over-complicated system Labour seems determined to press onto householders in Bridgend by bringing in a single recycling sack into which all items will go. This is already done in Ceredigion which has no limit on refuse sacks and the most successful recycling rates in Wales."

"Labour in Bridgend has shown breathtaking arrogance even though it

is deeply divided with sitting members being de-selected and others resigning and standing as independents."

"But replacing one group of disunited and quarrelling councillors with another will achieve nothing. We have a whole series of independent councillors putting their names forward this time, standing under various banners. But the truth is that a disparate group with no agreed common policies cannot form a stable administration."

"Voters must look at the alternatives to Labour carefully."

"Bridgend Conservatives will also reverse Labour's one per cent cut in funding to school budgets which could see every primary school lose at least one teacher and every comprehensive up to five. That will go."

"We will also cut the pay of councillors by 10 per cent so that they share the pain that their budget cuts are inflicting."

"We have campaigned for more than two years with traders to scrap the pedestrianisation of part of Bridgend town centre in a bid to bring more people in and halt the closure of shops. We will also look at introducing either free parking or reducing charges to encourage people to shop locally."

"These elections are likely to be the most hotly contested for decades so I urge voters to seize this opportunity to get rid of a tired, stale Labour administration and vote Conservative to secure a new council committed to providing the best possible services and value for money for all council taxpayers."

Maesteg's 'Mr RNLI' retires at age of 89



Ken Lewis of Maesteg

KEN LEWIS, an RNLI volunteer fundraiser, has decided to retire from service – after almost 40 years representing the charity in the Maesteg area.

During his time with the RNLI, Ken, from Aneurin Bevan Way, became known throughout his town as 'Mr RNLI', for his passion in helping to raise money for the charity he supported so faithfully.

Such was his dedication, in 2000, he was awarded the BCBC Mayor's Citizenship Award. Coincidentally on the same day, Ken's late wife, Barbara, received the same award for her voluntary help and support to Y Bwthyn Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

In 2007, the RNLI awarded Ken a RNLI Bronze Badge for fundraising.

Ken said: "I was employed as an NCB electrical engineer and retired in 1983. Becoming a fundraiser was quite a difference for me. At first there were a few of us locals who ran a RNLI fundraising guild in Maesteg but after several years, the group disbanded."

"I joined the fundraising committee at Porthcawl lifeboat station in 1995. I suppose unofficially, I became the Maesteg face of the RNLI. At one time, I was responsible for having 100 lifeboat collecting

boxes in local businesses, and I would visit each business once a month to empty the boxes."

"Unfortunately, with many shops and pubs closing in the town, the number of lifeboat boxes had dropped to 35, but this is still a significant amount, and every penny collected helps the charity."

Ken, father to daughter Valerie and son Ian, would regularly be seen outside the town's supermarkets with a collecting bucket, whatever the weather. He enrolled the help of his son Ian and arranged for his RNLI authorisation to help when Ken broke his leg in 2008. Over the years, he has also organised three fundraising concerts by choirs from Maesteg.

Spokesman John Abraham, chairman of Porthcawl RNLI said: "I have worked with Ken for many years on our committee and he has made a big difference not only to our fundraising results, but he has been a true ambassador for our charity in his home town."

"We very much hope to maintain our presence in Maesteg and hope to recruit someone with as much dedication as that shown by Ken."

"Although he has retired from his active role, he is still a valuable committee member and remains a RNLI Life Governor, a position he has held since 1990."

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Monday 17th April	Tuesday 18th April
Tuesday 18th April	Wednesday 19th April
Wednesday 19th April	Thursday 20th April
Thursday 20th April	Friday 21st April
Friday 21st April	Saturday 22nd April

The Waste and Recycling online calendars on the Council website have been amended to reflect these new collection dates.
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/recycle

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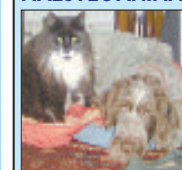


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Dydd Mawrth 18 Ebrill	Dydd Mercher 19 Ebrill
Dydd Mercher 19 Ebrill	Dydd Iau 20 Ebrill
Dydd Iau 20 Ebrill	Dydd Gwener 21 Ebrill
Dydd Gwener 21 Ebrill	Dydd Sadwrn 22 Ebrill

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Velindre doctor wins clinical teaching award

DR MARK TAUBERT, a palliative care consultant and clinical director for palliative medicine at Velindre NHS Trust, has won the prestigious BMA Cymru Wales/BMJ Clinical Teacher of the Year Award for 2017.

He picked up the award at The Clinical Teacher of the Year Awards, held at National Museum of Wales on March 29. The award recognises clinical teachers who have excelled in their work, supporting doctors in training and medical students in Wales.

The judges were particularly impressed by the quality of nominees this year and commended Dr Taubert specifically for his teaching style.

In his role as educational supervisor, Mark has given junior colleagues the words, insights and vocabulary to express an aspect of life that we would often rather avoid talking about, but that, at some point, affects us all.

His engaging approach has had a positive impact on his students and ultimately



Award winners at the recent BMA Cymru Wales/BMJ Clinical Teacher of the Year ceremony.

the patients they have gone on to support.

As a clinical teacher, Mark regularly uses modern cultural references as a starting-point for difficult conversations that have significant educational and emotional impacts on others. In January 2016,

Mark spoke about the death of David Bowie to inspire discussions amongst trainees, terminally-ill patients and their relatives, as well as on palliative care ward rounds with senior house officers and registrars, in order to help them all in better understanding the nature

of the illness.

Mark wrote an open letter, which initially acted as a good-bye and 'thank you' note to Bowie, but transformed to include aspects about Mark's own life and those of his patients.

The letter went on to incorporate the aims of palliative care in general, capturing some of the big topics in "end of life" care, including the extent of medical intervention wanted by patients coming to the end of their lives, and the ways trainees would need to conduct difficult conversations on this issue for the benefit of patients themselves.

Mark's letter was retweeted by Duncan Jones, David Bowie's son - his only interaction with the wider world immediately following his father's death.

Dr Philip Banfield, BMA Welsh Council Chair, added: "Dynamic clinical teachers are key to the delivery of high quality training for our doctors throughout their professional careers."

"The quality of clinical teaching in Wales is a clear reason for doctors to make Wales their preferred choice to complete their postgraduate training."

HOLY WEEK SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE VALE

HOLY WEEK Services – Barry and St Athan, Vale of Glamorgan Methodist Circuit:

Friday, April 7 Cadoxton – Easter Craft activities with worship and chocolate for all children and carers at 3.15pm.

Palm Sunday, April 9 – 'The Easter Story' Choir, circuit evening service at Trinity, Penarth 6pm.

Tuesday, April 11 at Crossway – Holy Communion service 2pm.

Barry Uniting Church – Reading through the Gospel

7pm.

Maundy Thursday, April 13 at Cadoxton – Holy Communion 7pm.

St David's – Holy Communion and service of light and darkness at 7.30pm.

Good Friday, April 14 at Tathan Parish Church, St Athan – United Service 12.30pm.

Churches of Barry Walk of Witness, starts at Parade Gardens at 12pm and concludes in King Square at about 1.15pm. (6pm Walk of Witness in Dinas at Twyn.)

10.30am Cadoxton – open for prayer. St David's – open for

prayer and silence between 2pm – 3pm.

Easter Day Sunrise Service: 6am, cliff tops, Penarth. Morning worship with Holy Communion: 9.45am at St David's; 9.45am at Cadoxton; 10am at The Gathering Place, St Athan; 10.30am at Barry Uniting Church (Waterfront) and 10.30am in Dinas; 11am at Crossway; 11am at St John on Barry Island.

For information call Revs P and C Challis on 01446 678730 or Rev P Taylor on 01446 406262.

Vale NFU meeting

DR ALEX REES of the 'Mothers of Africa' charity in the Gambia spoke on how they are facing A high mortality rate in teenage pregnancies – it was a very moving subject.

Ray Evans gave the vote of thanks and **Frances Rees** won the raffle. We next meet on **Wednesday, April 26** at 2pm at the Millennium Centre to see *Sister Act*.

John Sheer will be our speaker on **Tuesday, May 16** in Penllyn village hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

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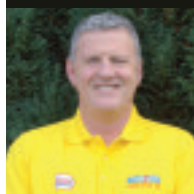
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Secretary of State for Wales and Vale MP tells of Westminster terrorist attack

TWO weeks after the terrorist attack that shook Westminster, Alun Cairns – Secretary of State for Wales and Vale MP – answers some key questions about how the day unfolded.

Where were you before the attack took place?

I had been in a meeting with the Prime Minister, Chancellor and a number of other colleagues in a room beneath the House of Commons chamber. We were scheduled to meet at Downing Street but because we were expecting a number of votes, the meeting had been switched to the Palace of Westminster.

During the course of the meeting, the Division Bell rang.

The Prime Minister adjourned the meeting, with a specific request to return as soon as possible to continue the discussion.

What happened next?

We went upstairs to vote. As we climbed the stairs and went through to the Division Lobby, the Chancellor and I continued to discuss an issue that had been raised in the meeting. This continued as our names were ticked off having voted.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Valeways walks

ON Wednesday, April 12 at 10.30am, the Cosmeston coffee shop strollers meet outside the visitor centre at Cosmeston Country Park.

Also on April 12 at 2.30pm, the Llantwit Major coffee shop strollers meet outside Llantwit Major Town Hall in the car park.

On Thursday, April 13 at 10.30am, 'To the Beach', starting at Llantwit Major railway station car park.

On Sunday, April 16 at 2pm, 'A Spring Walk in the Woods', starting at St Peter's Church, Mill Road, Dinas Powys.

Porthcawl Floral Arrangement Society

AT Awel-y-Mor on April 12 at 7.30pm a flower demonstration will be given by Arnaud Metairie entitled 'From My Shed'.

Doors open at 6.30pm, all warmly welcomed.

In the Division Lobby, there were more than a 100 members or so. This is where MPs will often raise constituency matters with Ministers.

I noticed that the PM was chatting with a colleague and moments later, she had disappeared. I thought nothing of this and assumed that she was keen to return to our meeting, as per her request.

How did you first hear that there had been an attack?

The Chancellor and I continued to make our way back to the meeting room, walking against the flow of people, who were making their way to vote, when a message came through to say that there had been an incident and we should wait.

We had no idea what type of incident had occurred. I initially thought that someone had fallen down the stairs, or maybe that there was a protest outside causing problems for MPs to get through to vote.

We were then told that there had been a stabbing and that gun shots had been heard.

This naturally changed the atmosphere. We immediately returned to the meeting room to gather our papers and notes, when the official advised us that the meeting was abandoned and that the PM would want to call a 'Cobra' meeting.

Our over-riding concern was for the welfare of anyone involved and for the safety and security of the building.

I was also concerned that the news would worry my family; I sent a text immediately to advise them that I was safe. Thankfully, this was so early in the incident, this was the first notice they received.

Where did you go then?

I returned to the Division Lobby level, where news hadn't by then permeated through to all members. The vote was still live, with hundreds of MPs continuing to make their way to the lobby. Some went in to the chamber to hear the result ahead of the next vote and others waited around the corridor.

I decided to make my way to my office, which is close by. I wanted to watch the news to see what was happening. My office window overlooks the site of the attack and it is from this position I realised the extent of the attack. I went cold.

The ambulance had arrived and I saw the to-ing

and fro-ing of the police, the public and emergency services directly outside my office window. A helicopter landed in Parliament Square and the scale of the response highlighted how serious the incident was.

The television news then started to report what was happening.

What were you able to do in the hours that followed?

At this moment, a message came over the internal speaker system instructing us to stay where we were and that the building was 'locked down'. The television reported that the Chamber had been locked too.

I was also worried for staff members in their offices elsewhere. They were later moved to another building.

I waited in my office for five hours. Shortly after being told not to move, armed police entered the corridor seeking to escort a cabinet colleague to a meeting because they were part of the response effort.

MPs poked their heads cautiously though to the corridor. This gave reassurance that there were others around.

Many of us gathered in each other's offices to try to gain a better understanding of what was happening.

We noted dogs searching the building, presumably in case an attacker remained in the building.

Five hours later, we were then permitted to leave.

What were your feelings as details of the attack emerged?

My first thoughts were for those directly involved. We all know the police officers personally. We chat every day as we pass through security. At that time, we didn't know who the victim was. There was a subdued atmosphere and a great deal of sadness.

I then rushed to catch the train to return home to the Vale. I had never been so grateful to arrive home safely, but was still thinking of those who had been involved.

It is also worth noting that I had arranged for a coach tour to visit Parliament the following day. This went ahead in defiance of the attack and I am

grateful to those from the Vale who continued as planned, while also being understanding of the small number who dropped out.

The atmosphere during this tour was different and very respectful of those who were lost and for those who protect us.

What happens now?

Naturally, there is a full investigation and I don't want to pre-empt any conclusion. The incident reminds us how fragile the relationships between communities are and that we must do all to integrate and to support each other.

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Out & About with The GEM

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE IN YOUR AREA

Library opening hours
THE newly-established Community Library run by volunteers in Dinas Powys has extended the afternoon opening

hours.
The new hours are 10am to 12 noon and 2pm to 4.30pm Monday to Friday, except Thursdays, when the library is closed in the afternoon; Saturday, 10am to 12 noon.

Biomass plant protest
A PEACEFUL protest is being organised by DIAG (Docks Incinerator Action Group) for residents

concerned about the Biomass plant currently under construction on Barry waterfront. This will consume 200 tons of waste wood each day.

Please meet at 12 noon on Saturday, April 8 outside the Civic Offices in Barry. We will then proceed to King Square for the finale.

For more information call Tim Bird on 01446 772614.

Dinas play
THE Dinas Powys Players present *Night Must Fall* at the Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys at 7.30pm on April 6, 7 and 8.

Easter cake sale!
FRIENDS of Penarth library are having an Easter cake sale at the library between 10am and 1pm on Saturday, April 8.

Cowbridge U3A
THE next Cowbridge U3A meeting will be a talk entitled 'The Enemy we Killed, my Friend', by Captain David Jones at 2pm on Wednesday, April 12 in Cowbridge Town

Help for scam victims
SCAMS are a big issue for the elderly as they can be targeted over the phone, online, by post or in person. Have you been the victim of a scam and want help reporting it?

Come along to the Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, April 11 from 10am to 12 noon. No appointment necessary; contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Getting online
IF you have hearing loss and would like to be more confident with going online, and using the internet, every Friday morning from 10.30am to 12pm Action on Hearing will be at Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

Help will be given on using the internet, learning to make the most of your smart phone or tablet. Learn about communication apps such as Facetime, Skype, and Facebook.

No appointment is needed. Call 01446 732385 or talk to Chris Lazo on 02920 523129.

Welfare rights
IF you live in the Vale and need advice on benefits, such as pension credits, attendance allowance, or housing benefit, Age Connects Cardiff and Vale run a free welfare rights advice service.

An adviser from Age Connects Cardiff and Vale will be available to help with form filling. A session will be held on Tuesday, April 11 from 9.30am to 11.30am at The Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road Barry.

No appointment needed, just come along. For further information call 01446 732385; home visits can be arranged if needed.

Easter Messy Church
REV Martyn, Rev Lee and the team invite toddlers (with their parents), youngsters and teenagers to the next messy church in the Reading Room, Bonvilston, on Easter Sunday at 2.30pm.

There will be craft activities, an Easter egg hunt and refreshments, including hot cross buns.

A collection for the Vale Foodbank will be made and you are invited to bring an item or two – tinned/dried food, tea bags, instant coffee, jam, biscuits, etc. For further information, call Lee Duffield on 07784 869020.

Gypsy Maker exhibition at Art Central



Billy Kerry's 'All Fur Coat' is set to show visitors the relationship between the artist and his material.

THE Vale of Glamorgan Council's Art Central Gallery is hosting an exhibition containing artwork commissioned by the Romani Cultural and Arts Company's (RCAC) Gypsy Maker project.

Billy Kerry's 'All Fur Coat' and Artur Conka's 'Rarebit Please!' are at Art Central in April, with both installations aiming to engage Gypsy Roma Traveller communities with the wider public.

Kerry said: "It's been fantastic, working with the RCAC, who have supported and guided me, while also allowing me to be very free with my work."

Artur Conka is one of the few Romani to have documented his community from behind the lens. Graduating from the University of Derby in photography and film-making, Conka's work has recorded how life in one of the poorest Romani communities in Slovakia has changed since its decline, and has featured in various international publications including Huffington Post, The Independent and Vice Magazine.

The opening takes place between 3pm-4.30pm, with free admission granted Monday to Friday, 9.30am-4.30pm thereafter, and 9.30am-3.30pm on Saturdays.

For more information on Art Central, visit http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/enjoying/arts_and_culture/Art-Central-Gallery.aspx.

Back to the 60s at New Theatre

Chart-topper and '80s icon Sonia will lead a star cast including X-Factor's Niki Evans and Helena Blackman from *How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maria* in the first UK tour of *Shout!* that visits Cardiff's New Theatre later in April.

Following the lives of five women in their 20s, 30s and 40s who are all facing tough situations – usually involving love and relationships – they write to Gwendolyn Holmes, an agony aunt working on the magazine *Shout!*, for her help and advice.

Set to a suitably swinging-Sixties soundtrack featuring a host of great songs of the era including 'These



Boots Are Made for Walkin', 'To Sir, With Love', 'Diamonds Are Forever', 'Puppet On A String', 'Those Were The Days' and Lulu's 'Shout!' (which spent 13 weeks riding the charts), the show is soulful, uplifting and infectious, taking you back to the music, fashion and

freedom of Britain's swinging Sixties.

Tickets for Shout! which is on from Tuesday, April 18 to Saturday, April 22, are available from the New Theatre box office on 029 2087 8887 or online at newtheatreccardiff.co.uk. We'll see you there!

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Sunday 12 noon - 4pm.

Toy and train sale is back

THE ever-popular Toy and Train Sale returns to Penarth Leisure Centre this Saturday, April 8, 10.30am to 3pm.

Organiser Chris Dyer told THE GEM: "Our venue at Cogan is ideal for a toy and train sale. It is large, easily accessed from all areas and has Cogan Railway Station virtually next door."

"There will be 120 tables run by more than 50 traders from all over the UK. The show is now firmly established on the national scene and traders travel from as far away as County Durham, East Anglia and Cornwall. It is always fully-booked by stall-

holders well in advance." Traders will be buying as well as selling and exchanging, and will also offer free valuations on a wide range of toy and train related items."

For more information, telephone 01643 702757 or 07966 694579, go to www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk.

It takes place at Penarth Leisure Centre, Andrew Road, Cogan, Cardiff, CF64 2NS.

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Welsh Autism petition gathers more support

A PETITION in support of a Welsh Autism charity, Autism Spectrum Connections Cymru, has gained over 100 signatures.

Aled Thomas of Penarth was inspired to launch the petition on learning about the Welsh Government's Autism Strategy which does not include funding this service.

The petition was launched online and quickly gathered support from local people.

One person who has benefited from the charity commented: "This charity is vital in order for me to function and live away from home at university as a person with Asperger's Syndrome."

Another described it "an invaluable and unique service".

Mr Thomas intends to present the petition to the Welsh Assembly Government's Petitions Committee in the hope that they will consider funding the charity.

In October 2016, despite cross-party support, an Autism Bill in the Senedd was voted down by Labour, including by the party's Cabinet Secretaries for health and public health.

Autism Spectrum Connections Cymru is a one stop shop which

provides support for adults with autism in south east Wales.

Things it offers includes social groups, one-on-one support, creative activities, benefit support and help with employment for people who are in work as well as those who are looking for a job.

Mr Thomas said that this has had a significant influence in improving his own life: "I enjoy the extra understanding of my condition here which I don't find is easy to get in the outside world. I have found new hobbies and skills and have had the chance to socialise, make friends and to be understood and accepted for who I am."

Mr Thomas contributed to a recent ITV Wales news report on the topic of living with autism as part of Autism Awareness Week.



Aled Thomas of Penarth

Tuition and learning centre open in Barry

INSPIRED LEARNERS has opened at 161 Holton Road, Barry.

Hayley Rees of Inspired Leainers told The GEM: "We provide tuition, support and training to parents, carers and schools."

"We are currently running a parent dyslexia awareness course to 'empower' parents."

"We are going to be offering a parent course focusing on speech and language strategies."

The staff include a speech and language specialist teacher; a dyslexia specialist teacher; and educational psychologists.

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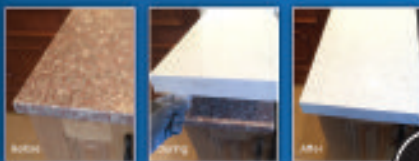
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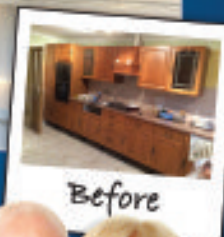
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In Business Update

WHEN TRIMMING TOENAILS IS ONLY PART OF THE JOB

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After working in the caring professions for many years, Wendy was recently trained by the

NHS and has been calling on clients in the Bridgend, Porthcawl and surrounding area for some time now.

Word of mouth has meant that she has built up a number of satisfied customers.

When she pays a house call, she brings her previous experience to bear, and understands that for many elderly people, the social contact is as important as keeping their toes tidy!

An hour's visit costs £15, and Wendy carries references and her CRB check information with her.

For contact details, see the advert on this page.

April showers?

There are lovely jackets at Samantha B

In this wonderful country we call home, a showerproof jacket is a summer wardrobe essential!

At Samantha B, we have a fantastic selection – from jackets for country walks to smarter city breaks, we have it covered.

Expect to see vibrant lime, pretty pastel, cool khaki, racy red and, of course, navy – we even have a really cleverly designed reversible jacket from Brandtex, two for the price of one!

If you would like a lighter jacket, come and have a look at our paca mac, perfect for travelling.

I am also delighted to report that we have some

fab dresses with sleeves. If you're looking for a day dress or something more dressy, we have them – Pomodoro, Adini, Bianca, Brandtex, Signature and Gina Bacconi.

Whatever your wardrobe need, we have it – lovely summer knits from Olsen, Signature and Emreco, perfectly fitting trousers from Olsen, Bianca, Poppy, Brandtex, perfect jeans and crops or just a plain t-shirt. Call in and see for yourself!

If you would like to attend a charity fashion show, they are on: May 5 at Llancarfan Church; May 11 at Radyr; May 18, Cowbridge Choir; May 19 town twinning, Bridgend; May 30 Brynhill Golf Club. Call us on 01656 658388 for details.

Home Optika makes visits in your area

THIS amazing organisation aims to provide eyecare services and products, including eye tests, to those who struggle to leave the house unaccompanied due to medical, physical or mental health reasons.

They are NHS registered, so free eye tests will apply to those who are entitled to one. A wide selection of NHS frames is available as well as an impressive private range. In fact, there are hundreds of frames in stock to choose from.

Home Optika is also registered with the General Optical Council, College of Optometrists and Association of Optometrists and their expertise and experience are second to none.

For those who would rather not attend a high street practice, they also

offer private eye examinations in the comfort of your home for the entire family.

Why choose Home Optika?

They are friendly, reliable, professional and experienced optometrists. They are based in south Wales and have specialist equipment and resources to provide the best eyecare service in the comfort of your home.

They can arrange a sight test at home for you within a day or two of point of contact.

They source products and services locally, so you won't have to wait for weeks to have your glasses delivered and fitted for you.

Their prices are competitive and they offer a wide range of frames.

Check the website for more information about Home Optika, their services and products: www.homeoptika.com. Or contact them by phoning them on: 02920 213397, or 07510 969414.

'Coastal Lives' to begin this Friday



Andy Bradshaw and Peter Knowles

THE BBC's 'Coastal Lives' TV series will follow the rich and varied lives of those working and living along the Glamorgan coast, including two Penarth residents Andy Bradshaw and Peter Knowles.

Andy and Peter are the joint owners of Hamptons and Shore, as well as being award-winning designers, and winners of Penarth Council's inaugural 'Outstanding Citizens' Award.

The popular pair were filmed over the spring and summer of 2016, culminating in their participation in Penarth's

Downhill Derby where they won 'best dressed kart' and were placed a respectable third in the actual race.

Peter Knowles said: "We were thrilled when the BBC approached us about taking part in 'Glamorgan Coastal Lives' and we feel honoured to be part of the programme. Penarth is such a perfect place to live and work – we absolutely love it here – and it's great to see it being celebrated on the small screen."

The TV series will run for four weeks with the first episode airing on BBC 1 Wales, Friday, April 7 at 7.30pm and then the following three Fridays for episodes 2, 3 and 4.

An expert's advice could avoid dispute

BRENDAN SWEENEY of DAVID PROSSER & Co Solicitors, writes:

It is estimated that 60 per cent of the UK population do not have a Will.

A Will takes effect on your death and is an instruction as to what is to happen to your estate. Probate disputes and challenges to Wills are becoming a growth area, which often leads to substantial costs.

We now live in a world where family relationships are often very complex, and expert advice regarding the drafting of a Will is essential.

A professional advisor can also advise you in relation to inheritance tax, and how you plan to minimise potential liabilities to inheritance tax.

It is important that

people are fully aware of their duties and financial responsibilities when they make a Will, to ensure that they comply with the technicalities that are required to have a valid Will.

The cost of a professionally-drafted Will, after taking advice, is considerably less than the costs that can be incurred if there is a dispute regarding your financial affairs after your death.

Substantial costs can also be saved by taking professional advice early, and putting in place Powers of Attorney – whereby you appoint trusted people to make decisions about your property and financial affairs and health and welfare, if you lose capacity.

The people appointed are made fully aware of their rights and responsibilities.

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Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D977.

● **£2,000: 344511.**

● **The rollover, which now stands at £2,500, was not won this week.**

● **£10: 4 8 5 1 5 4, 307049, 713470, 213521, 970082, 512236, 560839, 149277, 817691, 258442, 576560, 446920, 385916, 465683, 886522, 250590, 297431, 846927, 135, 535839.**

● **£5: 323927, 249014, 417745, 854525, 328612, 695942, 492598, 113591, 140366, 182305.**

123151, 831639, 244466, 496323, 905521, 471083, 667262, 743744, 219238, 356087, 655359, 780454, 215229, 924230, 393834, 719788, 859817, 312957, 814437, 826169, 150427, 684889, 337571, 132040, 147381, 541798, 754345, 752224, 437998, 433146, 817609, 560689, 183452, 297029, 749877, 860409, 838883, 558182, 576685, 783280, 203584, 643789, 691313, 521095, 939212, 829, 1904692, 1774225, 1892420, 5069.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

HEALTH DAY THIS SATURDAY IN THE TOWN HALL

THIS Saturday, April 8, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions are hosting a health day in the town hall from 10am to 1pm.

Spokeswoman Liz Evans explained: "There will be diabetic screening, Welsh Hearts will be attending to help with CPR and defibrillator training.

"The Stroke Association will also be there, along with members of the new Vale Stroke Group to let people know what the group is doing.

"There will be teas and coffees, so please come along."

Liz also pointed out that in the morning, the Lions will be holding a book sale outside Waitrose in the morning. Funds raised will go to a variety of causes including local ones.

THE MEN WHO BUILT BARRY

Retail entrepreneurs of the late 19th century Part III

THE final part of this trilogy is of a young man who came to Barry when his father Ben Evans became Pastor of the Tabernacle Welsh Congregational Church.

Daniel James Evans (c1884) was born in Llangadog, Carmarthenshire and in 1901 was living at 44 Tynewydd Road with four siblings and working as an ironmonger's assistant.

The following year he helped WH Hooper with the opening of a new shop at 81 Holton Road. In one photograph Dan was

LOCAL HISTORIAN LAURIE OWEN CONCLUDES HIS FASCINATING SERIES

shown with a huge stock of hardware and ironmongery and by 1905, with the experience and confidence gained, he had taken over the business at just 22 years of age.

This was the beginning of a long and successful career in the town, with his premises spreading from 81 to 85 Holton Road and eventually with shops across the road, built on a reputation of giving personal service with quality staff.

Over the next few years he expanded his

stock and in 1908 supplied the furniture and carpets to the new Accident and Surgical Hospital in Wyndham Street. Shortly after, the family moved to 36 Woodlands Road and in 1905 his sister Ceridwen died at 14 years of age.

In 1911 Dan married Catherine Mary Richard(s), who coincidentally had been living and working as a draper's assistant for at least 10 years in the large store of DL Evans at 104/6 Holton Road, which was opposite his own premises. They

then had two sons, Gwynfor and Alwyn and daughter Ceridwen.

When the Reverend Ben Evans died in 1918, his eldest son Dan was already secretary of the Grand Eisteddfod and the National Service Campaign.

Dan Evans only began his business adventure half way through the period which this story covers, but such was the impact his business had on those early settlers, including my own grandparents who came from Kent in 1908, it was felt that his early story should be briefly included.

As time went on, he would become very influential in the community, becoming Deputy Mayor in 1939, when the town became a borough.

For many years and for many families, 'Danny's' had been the focal point of Holton Road and towards the end, as we enjoyed our custard slice in the cafeteria, it was sad to see that there were often more staff than customers.

Finally in 2005, this institution closed its doors and left a large hole, which has not been filled.

3 good reasons

FAMILY EASTER EGG HUNT & AFTERNOON TEA

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Barnardo's Big Toddle hopes to raise big money

NURSERIES and playgroups across Wales raised more than £20,000 for Barnardo's, the UK's oldest and largest children's charity, during last year's animal-themed Big Toddle.

Children dressed up animals and took part in a half-mile walk to raise money for vulnerable children. Nurseries and parents are now signing up to take part in this year's Big Toddle, which runs from June 19- 25

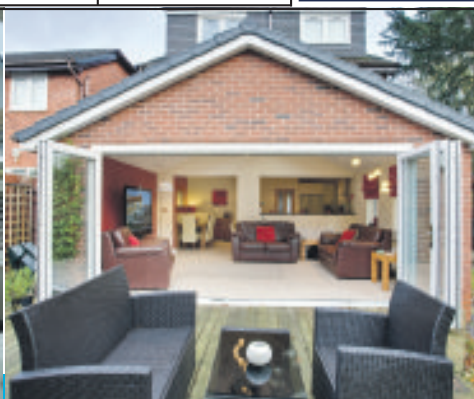
and has the theme 'colours'.

The Big Toddle, which began as a one-off event in Porthcawl and has grown to become a national fundraising event, is marking its 20th anniversary this year by teaming up with Teletubbies, who are also celebrating their 20th anniversary.

To find out more and to register to Barnardo's Big Toddle visit www.bigtoddle.org.uk, follow Twitter @BigToddle or Facebook/BigToddle.



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All things considered, once you've made the decision to go ahead, it could take three or four months before you can put your feet up and enjoy your new room. However, having invested the time to design, plan and build it properly we think you'll agree that your new conservatory or orangery will be more than worth the wait!



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GOING, GOING, GONE! Goodbye to Cai's locks

Report and photos by
Keith E Morgan



ABOVE:
Twelve-year-old Cai Powell having his hair cut by Gavin Bowser, assisted by Cai's mother Kerry and aunt Gemm, with sister Arwen-Mai, brother Mael-Eirion and Gwyneth Poacher.



RECENTLY at the Sandville Self Help Centre, 12-year-old Cai Powell of North Cornelly took to the high chair to have his hair cut.

each about 10 inches long! Cai attends Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger and will probably not be recognised by his fellow pupils with his new hair style! The pigtails have been sent off to the Little Princess Trust and the sponsorship money that Cai received has all been given by him to the Sandville Self Help Centre at Ton Kenfig.

Marking a quarter century of Women in Wales Charity

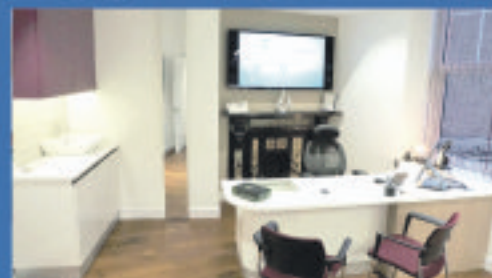
THE Princess Royal will be guest of honour at the Women in Wales Lunch Reception in the SSE SWALEC Stadium on Friday, April 28 to mark a quarter of a century of the 'Women in Wales Charity' raising money for Save the Children.

This year's guest speaker with close royal connections is entrepreneur, Cath Kidston. The queen of florals is being interviewed by Sue Brooks of *Desert Island Discs* about how her talent and drive transformed roses into riches. Rachel Thomas, Chair of Women in Wales said: "We are extremely honoured to have The Princess Royal, Patron of Save the Children UK join us for this special occasion which is a sell-out this year with 500 guests, and we hope to raise a record amount for children who are living in poverty in Wales."

Proceeds from the 2017 lunch go towards the Eat, Sleep, Learn, Play programme in Wales.

For further details visit www.womeninwales.org.uk.

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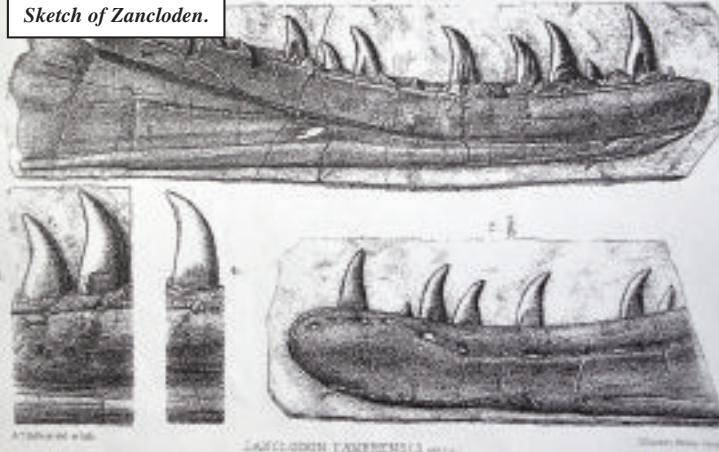
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A 'DRAGON' LIVED AT BRIDGEND

– but maybe we should be talking about Dai-nosaurs!

Sketch of Zancloclodon.



Sketch of Fossilised Jaw of Zancloclodon found at Stormy Down in 1896

In using the above headline, I have applied a little bit of poetic licence, as the title 'DRAGON LIVED AT BRIDGEND' was first applied to a report in an unidentified newspaper published on February 12, 1949.

As neither Stormy Down nor Bridgend existed as a place name 150 million years ago, the time to which the article alludes, I do not think that the choice of names in the title should concern the reader unduly.

The 1949 article was a report on a lecture that Dr WE Swinton of the Department of Geology of the British Museum, had given the previous evening at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.

In his talk, Dr Swinton had referred to the dragon appearing on Wales' national flag as being a purely fabulous beast, but stated that Wales was credited at least with one real dinosaur which roamed Stormy Down, near Bridgend 150 million years ago.

He concluded that this ancient inhabitant of Glamorgan was the only one in Wales of which proof had been found at that time.

The ancient inhabitant to which Dr Swinton was referring was a megalosaurus dinosaur, and as we now know, much further evidence of the existence of dinosaurs has since been found in Glamorgan.

Incidentally, Glamorgan is the only place in Wales where rocks of the Triassic Period (251-201 million years ago) and Jurassic Period (201-145 million years ago) crop-out to reveal the fossilised remains of dinosaurs, as shown in the accompanying Geological Map provided by SR Howe of the Geologists' Association – South Wales Group.

In 1898, the fossilised impressions of part of the lower jaw of a meat-eating dinosaur were found at Stormy Down. This jaw is now known to be from the Late Jurassic-late Triassic Period (210-201 million years ago) and much older than quoted by Dr Swinton.

The jaw is typical of Zancloclodon (meaning – 'sickle-tooth'), a strongly built, bipedal carnosaur (flesh-lizard) with a large head, short arms, powerful legs and a long stiff tail that balanced the short body.

Zancloclodon had sharp blade-

like teeth and long claws on its toes and fingers; a creature to be avoided at all costs! The beautiful preserved remains of the fossilised lower jaw, which are on display in the National Museum of Wales at Cardiff, are shown in the accompanying photograph and illustrate that the material forming the jaw bone has been destroyed during fossilisation, leaving only a hollow mould of the dentary bone in the sandstone.

Initially called Newtonsaurus after TH Newton who reported its finding, or Zancloclodon cambrensis because its fossilised jaw remains were found in Wales, this as yet undescribed genus of dinosaur was more recently referred to a Megalosaurus cambrensis – although there is still debate about its true affinities.

Dinosaurs lived on this earth for some 155 million years and became extinct 66 million years before Homo sapiens was to appear and evolve.

These creatures lived during a time called the Mesozoic Era: the Age of Reptiles which, as we can see from the Dinosaur timeline, covered three ages: the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods. During the Mesozoic Era, the dinosaurs lived on a very large continent called Pangaea.

As shown in the diagram, during the Triassic Period, Pangaea was a supercontinent effectively combining all of the landmasses of the world. This began to split up during the Jurassic Period, with the perpetual movement of continents slowly drifting towards the current configuration.

The word dinosaur is a relatively new word in the English language and was coined in 1841 by palaeontologist, Sir Richard Owen. It is derived from two Greek words 'deinos' and 'sauros' which when combined together literally translate as 'terrible lizard'.

Many names were given to the remains and fossils of these great creatures before 1841, the most popular of which was 'dragon!' The Chinese word evolves around dragons and their word for dinosaur is 'Konglong' which literally translates to 'Terrible Dragon!'

We are back to Dr Swinton's opening statement where he refers to Y Ddraig Goch: The Red Dragon. The red dragon itself has been associated with Wales for centuries, though the origins of the adoption of the

dragon symbol is now lost in history and myth.

A possible theory is that the Romans brought the emblem to what is now Wales during their occupation of Britain in the form of the Draco standards borne by the Roman cavalry, itself inspired by the symbols of the Dacians or Parthians. The Red Dragon was not adopted as the official flag for Wales until 1959.

Would it not be plausible that when Sir Richard Owen was coining his word for the creatures he really meant to spell the word as Dai-nosaur?

Certainly, since Arthur Conan Doyle put pen to paper in publishing his scientific romance entitled 'The Lost World' in 1912, interest in dinosaurs has steadily increased over the years.

Today, every child knows about dinosaurs thanks to the publicity given to new finds made around the world and to the wonderful animation technology used in films like *Jurassic Park* and television programmes such as *Walking with Dinosaurs*.

The interest is further fuelled with magazines, books, toys and realistic models. Where will it end?

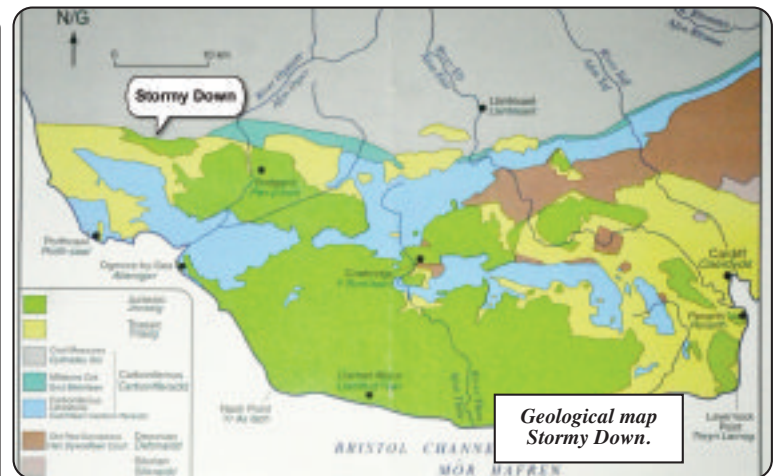
I am indebted to Cindy Howells, Curator of Palaeontology at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, for proof-reading and editing this article and for providing a number of the images used for the illustrations.

The go-ahead to build RAF Stormy Down was obtained in 1937 with work commencing on the construction of the aerodrome in March 1938. It was commissioned as an operational station the following year on April 24, 1939.

To celebrate the history and life and times of RAF Stormy Down, this is the first article in a series that not only covers this topic, but the whole history of Stormy Down, from the dawn of time up to the present day.

The second article, entitled 'Stormy Down Through Time: The Era of the Dinosaur in Glamorgan', will take a look at the other interesting dinosaur finds that have been made in the area.

REPORT BY
KEITH E MORGAN



Geological map Stormy Down.



Pangaea Supercontinent in the Triassic Period



Actual Fossilised Jaw of Stormy Down Zancloclodon in the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff



Man and Megalosaur Size Comparison
(National Museum of Wales)

Sker WI visit the 'Good Old Days' of music hall

ON March 29, Sker WI hosted the Glan-y-Mor annual link meeting at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, an opportunity for WI members to come together and this year, it was the usual mix of fun and good company.

The guest speakers, John Mason and his wife Carol, entertained us with a selection of 'Stories that had to be told!' These included 'The Hermit of Kenfig' Ben Evans, and hilarious stories from Mr Mason's father David, 'Toilets I Have Known and Loved.'

After refreshments had been served, Sker WI members performed a musical tribute to Old Time Music Hall. Decked out in their Victorian finery, the

choir led everyone in a singsong of traditional favourites.

Sker WI president Nora Williams called on Mynydd Cynfig WI's president to give the vote of thanks.

Sker WI meets at 7pm on the second Thursday of the month at St David's Church Hall, Nottage Village. Visitors are always welcome and we would love to meet you, so come along and say hello!

CB

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news from your area -
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For all your carpet needs and ranges to suit all budgets there's no need to look further than Richard Jones Carpets on Broad Street.

HIGH STREET Traders are well known across south Wales for their show-piece community events and every Easter Saturday provide the colour and excitement of the Bonnet Parade.

Mums and dads, grandparents and guardians enjoy bringing along youngsters decked out in their home made bonnets.

Fay Blakeley of High Street Traders told The GEM: "The parade this Easter Saturday, April 15, will begin at 10.45am at Café No 5. Following the normal tradition, the youngsters will parade up and down both sides of High Street."

The traders have chosen to start this year's parade at a different location, Café No 5, to signal their support for one of the great local causes. ValePlus, a Barry-based charity, runs the café, providing experience and skills opportunities for people with learning difficulties.

Fay explained that people of all ages are welcome to take part in the parade.

"The categories will be sought to five, six to 11 and 12 to 100! The winners of each category will win prizes."

Recently, the High Street area was recognised as one of the UK's top five local shopping areas by the Local Data Company for its great independent shop provision.

The traders have an ongoing campaign to promote what's great about the High Street shopping quarter (this includes High Street, Island Road, Market Street and Broad Street). It

is currently providing 101 reasons to visit the area via social media.

Reasons such as the following – it is 100 per cent independent; you can buy everything for a top Sunday roast locally; are you a mother-of-the-bride? then there are four ladies' fashion shops; why not learn a new skill in High Street? Answer: Some businesses provide special classes in particular skills.

Readers can keep up to date with all the news from the shopping area through the Facebook Page 'High Street Shopping Quarter' or via Twitter @HighStShop



Easter wouldn't be Easter on High Street, Barry, without popping in to Tony and the staff in Vic Hopkins & Son to order that special Welsh leg of lamb. Tony told The GEM: "With today's working families in mind we now offer an extensive range of 'Ready Meals' and 'food to go', freshly cooked every day including freshly roasted chickens to order, just give us a call! We've also extended our opening times to 5.30pm Monday to Friday, so you can pop in on the way home from work. We offer an out of hours delivery service Monday to Thursday. Orders placed via our website or Facebook page before 3pm can be delivered when you get home from work. No more having to put up with supermarket meat."

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HAPPY EASTER

from High Street, Broad Street, Island Road and Market Street

FAMILIES AND FRIENDSHIP AT THE HEART OF WEST END BARRY



ABOVE:
Wendy and the staff at Cwtch Coffee can guarantee everyone a warm welcome.



ABOVE:
Fay Blakeley of the gift boutique *Homemade Wales* on Island Road is modelling a popular 'Barry Island apron' along with a matching tea towel. There are dozens of other delightful Welsh-themed gifts in *Homemade Wales* to choose from.



LEFT:
Food for Thought has been providing great food and great service on High Street for over 33 years. The business has also supported numerous charities over the years. Leroy (back left) has just volunteered to have a 'back wax' for Ty Hafan. A brave man indeed!

LOCAL traders can happily spend a whole afternoon or even a day browsing the array of shops in the High Street area.

People are lured to Barry's West End due to the fact that independent shops rely on skilful buying to survive and source something 'that little bit different'.

Nicola at *Miss Holmes* is renowned for her ability to bring the very top names to High Street and she's done it again. This time with *Choconchoc*. The company was featured on TV when master baker Mary Berry visited its premises to have a go at making the high quality sculptural chocolates using a unique layering process.

What's better than a *Choconchoc* Easter present? Nicola stocks a host of top brands like the sparkly and collectable Annie Haak jewellery, and one customer Jane comments on Facebook of *Miss Holmes*: "My favourite shop. You will always find the perfect gift."

Bryls Boutique stocks the latest ladieswear, coats, jewellery, watches and handbags. Ann, the owner, and her staff always provide customers with a warm welcome and good advice.

One of the most popular brands is the classic Ugg boots, but there are other top names too including Estella Bartlett, French Connection, Great Plains, Joules, Darling, Sandwich, Masai, and Yaya.

If you want more information on *Bryls Boutique*, please go to the Facebook page.

Food for Thought is your

family friendly local deli on High Street.

For many years the Keeble family have been serving up some of the best foods in town.

The staff are keen to support worthwhile causes too, and Leroy has agreed to have his back waxed for charity!

He explained: "I want to do something for Ty Hafan because it is a local charity."

Over 400 people on social media loved the idea.

His dad Nathan has promised there will be 'before' and 'after' pictures for everyone to see!

Just across the road from *Food for Thought* is *Jade Boutique*. Jane James has owned four shops in Barry's West End over a 32 year period, all of them providing top fashions for the stylish woman.

Jade Boutique is located at 74 High Street after Jane relocated from number 89 two years ago.

The great thing about Jane is that she gets to know all her customers and can advise on the best outfit or item of clothing.

Her spring collection is in full swing and she is well known for her vast range of fascinators.

If you are in search of something quintessentially Welsh or unique, Island Road is a 'must visit'.

Homemade Wales is a haven of unusual and quality gifts for all occasions, including stylish souvenirs of Barry.

Fay Blakeley, the owner explained: "I'm passionate about my home town and believe that gifts from the town should be stylish, innovative and good quality."

"We work with a number of local photographers, creating beautiful prints and cards of the area. We also commission our

own range of handmade textiles celebrating Barry Island, such as aprons, tea towels and cushions.

"Our latest collaboration has seen us license the reproduction of Ordnance Survey maps of the area for use on quality gifts for the home, such as sandwich trays and mugs."

Fay added: "Many of my regular customers bring their visiting family and friends to *Homemade Wales*, confident that they'll find something different and local to remind them of their visit to the town."

Next door, Rob Linder, who has been repairing and making jewellery for 20 years, has his work area visible at *Bespoke Jewellery Workshop*.

People who are browsing the items in the Island Road showroom can watch Rob and his staff carrying out repairs, and creating new pieces of original jewellery.

He and his wife Irene also own *Brooklind Jewellery* based at the High Street arcade in Cardiff. In fact the Cardiff store recently won an online 'Jeweller of the Year' competition.

The great thing is that if someone has their own design for a special gift, Rob and the staff can bring it to life. Just pop in to Island Road with your idea, or even a drawing, and they will work with you to create an unforgettable gift for a loved-one.

Bespoke Jewellery Workshop will be open on Good Friday, Easter Saturday, but closed on the Sunday and Easter Monday.

For more information call the Barry store on 01446 732017 or the Cardiff one on 02920 232854.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



Bespoke Jewellery Workshop are craftspeople dedicated to creating that unforgettable gift.



Miss Holmes has hundreds of gifts from top names including the 'Choconchoc' range that will make a very special Easter gift.



RIGHT:
Nicola Petersen owner of *Miss Holmes*, the shop for exclusive gifts.

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HAPPY EASTER

from High Street, Broad Street, Island Road and Market Street

So much on offer in High Street...



LEFT: The spring collection has arrived at Jade Boutique, so pop in and see Jane now.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26
And where can you enjoy a welcome rest during your shopping

tour of Barry West End? Everyone is guaranteed a warm welcome at 'Cwtch

Coffee' which is celebrating its fourth anniversary. It's the perfect place to have a pit-stop from all that shopping or to meet up with a friend for a chin-wag.

Wendy and Leanne have got everything down to a fine art – whether it's all sorts of coffees, lattes and other drinks to breakfasts, paninis and baguettes.

Two weeks ago, the ladies even hosted a special champagne breakfast, well worth getting up for!

The shop has lots of loyal regulars who Wendy and Leanne know by name.

If you visit, you can be guaranteed a warm welcome.

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For MoT, servicing and repairs Griff's Garage on Broad Street is a convenient place to drive in your car, leave it in their hands and go for a browse round the High Street shops. For any questions and to book in, call the staff on 01446 752742.

Celebrate Butterflies anniversary this week



BUTTERFLIES is a unique gift shop that has been situated on the High Street for nine years.

The owner Jodie explained: "We are the official stockist in Barry of Yankee Candles, Goose Creek Candles and Bomb Cosmetics.

"We offer a very high standard of customer service, personal shopping on Facebook and in store.

"We also offer local and UK

delivery and all our items are professionally gift wrapped for free!

"We would like to invite you to join us in celebrating our anniversary and as a 'thank you' we are providing lots of offers and promotions throughout the store on Friday, April 7 and Saturday, April 8.

"There will also be lots of new stock at the launch."

Jodie and her fab team would like to thank all their many customers for all the support over the years.

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Vale goes mad for tennis festival fun!



VALE Tennis Academy welcomed dozens of families to its free school tennis festivals over the last two weekends at three of its venues across the Vale of Glamorgan: Penarth Lawn Tennis Club (Rectory Road), Llantwit Major Tennis Club (next to the rugby ground), and Barry Community Tennis Club (Millwood Courts).

Following hugely popular taster sessions for over 1,000 children in reception, and years 1 and 2 in a number of schools throughout the county, festivals were held to give families a flavour of tennis coaching programmes and activities in a tennis

club setting. With a variety of on court activities provided by LTA qualified coaches, around 200 children (and their families, if they chose to join in) enjoyed building their physical literacy skills and developing their tennis knowledge and ability, and, courtesy of Tennis Wales and Syner Mini, received a free gift and certificate of participation.

Vale Tennis Academy offers a comprehensive coaching programme for all ages and abilities of player, and each of its venues also has a social programme available for players to get-together more informally both on court and off.

For more information please visit www.valetennisacademy.co.uk or pop along to one of our venues and speak to one of our friendly coaching team.

PM

The Barry and District Ladies Skittle League

LATEST results for the Barry and District Ladies Skittle League are:

First division: SV Gals (V Pycroft, J Richards 29) 289; Allsorts (S Tierney 33) 290; Pila Palas (S Bennett, J Griffiths 31) 317; Cigar Ladies (L James, L Webb, J Smith 31) 311; Family and Friends (G Brown 24) 216; Bobby's Girls (G Toogood 21) 194; Baker's Dozen (S Howe 30) 275; Family Affair (S John 30) 278; Barry Stars (W Phillips 34) 341; Coclot Ladies (M Snelling 36) 313; Special Angels (C Thomas 26) 232; Coppers (J Ward 24) 237.

Second division: Castle Bandits (E Evans 30) 234; Merry Makers (M Payne, J Baker 24) 239; Roller Coasters (S Jones 28) 231; SV Lights (P Snook 23) 209; Cad Con Fillies (C Pearce 26) 223; Castaways (J Byrne 25) 217; After Eights (E Carmichael 32) 196; Fallen Angels (N Edwards 32) 315; Breakaways (C Smith, C Parfitt, J Dawkins 30)

288; Clickies (E Walters 33) 222; Witchill Widows (L Spyrou 35) 300; Airways Angels (E Jones 31) 305.

Third division: Little Devils (L Hughes, S Harry, P Weston, J H Jones 23) 243; Twilights (K Nveit 25) 211; Vixens (N Sheppard 30) 269; Etcetera (J Baker, J Barton 24) 249; Rugby Triers (N Ray 28) 249; Witches (R Pope 28) 239; Hill Billies (I Dimond, G Moorcraft 32) 293; La Belles (S Peacock 35) 302; Challengers (A Richards 36) 327; S V Ladies (C Griffiths 34) 295; Westenders (M Condon 28) 258; Uptown Girls (L Hobbs 28) 252.

Fourth division: Off The Rails (G Griffiths 25) 239; Witchill Wanderers (V Kerslake 28) 154; Persuaders (C Organ, F Organ 24) 225; Liberals (S Boyd 22) 116; Aristocrats (M Atkinson 27) 230; Socialites (J Parker 25k) 187; Living On A Spare (R Britton 30) 293; Boozy Birds (C Connell 30) 265.

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'Decline and Fall' proves Welsh film-making is on the up!



Decline and Fall was filmed last year at locations around Wales.

UK Technology Ffilm Centre 35 is 'thrilled' to be among *Decline and Fall's* filming locations.

Wales's flourishing film industry will once again be on display this week when the all-star adaptation of *Decline and Fall* returns to our screens.

Evelyn Waugh's comedy novel is set to appear on BBC One again on Friday night starring comedian Jack Whitehall and *Desperate Housewives* star Eva Longoria.

The TV mini series adapted from the 1928 novel, which also stars actor David Suchet, Tim Pigott-Smith and Nickolas Grace, is being brought to screens thanks to Fortitude producer Matthew Bird and writer James Wood.

In a further sign of confidence in the Welsh film and TV industry, the highly anticipated production was partly filmed just 20 minutes outside Cardiff.

Among its filming locations were Castell Coch, Pinewood's Welsh Studio, Llantwit Major, and Sony UK Technology Centre (UK

TEC) in Pencoed.

Sony UK TEC, which produces thousands of professional HD and 4K broadcast cameras annually, has recently become a beacon for high-profile productions.

This is thanks to the success of its Ffilm Factory 35, which has hosted TV shows including *Dr Who*, American historical drama *Will*, and film thriller *The Chamber*.

The 30,000 sq ft facility boasts easy access to the M4, on-site security 24 hours seven days a week, access via four loading bays, a variety of on-site services including a canteen for catering, space to house unit base and crew parking, a cinema room for screening, and on-site post-production facilities.

Sony UK TEC director of professional services Gerald Kelly said it was "thrilling" for the Pencoed site to consistently be chosen among filming locations for some of the biggest shows of the moment.

He said: "Since launching the Ffilm Factory in 2015 we have been blown away with the incredible response from the British and Welsh film industry.

"The facility has proved to be a huge success and we have been delighted to welcome some of the biggest productions of the moment to Pencoed. "We were extremely excited to host the cast and crew of *Decline and Fall*, which we will all be watching.

"I feel that the continued interest not just in our Ffilm Factory, but for filming in Wales, is an encouraging sign for the industry and we are thrilled to be a part of its success."

A den of iniquity at local friendship club?

IT was nice to welcome yet another new member to our Friendship Club for our March meeting.

I hope she didn't think she had come to a 'den of iniquity' when the popular Rummikub and Triominos were put aside and instead it was dominoes and card games (but thankfully no money exchanged hands).

For those who liked the challenge of words, it was 'Up Words'; but from the noise and laughter coming from the games, it was an afternoon of fun for everyone.

Then of course our meeting finished with the usual afternoon tea of homemade sandwiches and cakes.

For our April meeting we will be welcoming John Winton whose talk is entitled 'Have I got Pews for You'.

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of every month when we have a variety of activities, so if you or someone you know would be interested, please call 01656 668446 to find out more.

PAT SMITH (Leader)

Bridgend Town Twinning group 'is still looking to the future'

BRIDGEND Town Twinning Committee has now become an autonomous self-governing body to be known as Bridgend Town Twinning Association.

A spokesman said: "The aim of the association is to continue its successful links with its two European twin towns, Villenave d'Ornon in France and Langenau in Germany, and its Friendship Link with Hechtel-Eksel in Belgium.

"At the Annual General Meeting on March 24 a few new positions were filled in administrative roles. The former committee would like to thank Mrs Carol James for the years of service she has given this organisation as a faithful and trusted chairperson, always putting the interests of twinning at the top of her list.

"The association is now looking forward with a positive mind-set to continue fulfilling its objectives in friendship, educational, cultural and economic links."

Last week Dawnsyr Penybont visited Villenave d'Ornon in France as part of their celebration for St Patrick's Day. This was a successful visit showcasing Welsh folk dancing, which was fully appreciated and enjoyed by the twin town in France.

On April 22, a group of French students from Villenave d'Ornon will visit Bridgend to experience Welsh education and culture. These students will be hosted by pupils of

Bryntirion and Brynteg Comprehensive schools.

The spokesman explained: "A full week of activities has been planned by the Town Twinning Association for these students, including visits to the Principality Stadium, Big Pit, St Fagan's Museum of Welsh Life and Dan-yr-Ogof caves.

"The association is very grateful to all the families who will be hosting these young people during their stay in Bridgend.

"On June 1 the Tabernacle Music Society, together with members of the Town Twinning Association, travel to Bordeaux to take part in a European Music Festival at Villenave d'Ornon along with musicians from Germany, Italy, Portugal and France.

"While there they will be taking part in two days of concerts and also have the opportunity of sightseeing in the beautiful regions surrounding Bordeaux.

"Two more visits are being arranged for later in the year. The first with our Friendship link town of Hechtel Eksel and the second when Cor Bro Ogwr visit Langenau in Germany, where they will put on a number of concerts."

He added: "To dispel any doubts the residents of Bridgend may have, Bridgend Town Twinning is still an active and forward-thinking organisation who look for your support.

We invite anyone to become a member of our association, attend our meetings and join in our social events."

Free to enter Porthcawl Easter egg hunt

FIVE hundred plastic eggs will be hidden throughout Porthcawl's streets this Saturday, April 8 for an egg-stravagant Easter egg hunt!

Between 11am and 3pm, you can join the search for the coloured eggs that will be placed on John Street, Dock Street, Well Street, Lias Road, Station Hill (New Road), the seafront end of Mary Street, and on the Esplanade between the Grand Pavilion and Cosy Corner.

Each child taking part is asked to 'please only take one egg' - all of which will win a prize. Once found, simply

crack open your egg to find instructions on how to claim. Three lucky hunters will win the top prize of a giant Easter egg!

The free event will also feature music and entertainment, while the Easter bunny and his friends will be out on the streets helping you to hunt down those eggs. Children can also enjoy egg-str fun on the day by taking part in a competition to design their own Easter eggs.

The Porthcawl Easter Egg Hunt is being supported by Bridgend Council, Porthcawl Town Council, and the Porthcawl Chamber of Trade.

Wheatley's Free Fire is well worth getting caught up in!

THERE are few more exciting directors around at the moment than Ben Wheatley.

Ever since his debut *Down Terrace* in 2009, Wheatley has bounced from genre to genre, the only constant being the quality of the films never dipping below superb.

His sixth film, *Free Fire*, sees him tackle the world of action, specifically gun shoot-outs.

The brief synopsis is that the story is set in Boston in 1978, where a meeting in a deserted warehouse between two gangs (comprising among others, Brie Larson, Cillian Murphy, Sharlto Copley, Armie Hammer and Jack Reynor) in an arms deal which goes south, and turns into a shootout where no-one is guaranteed to be walking away...

Given that Ben Wheatley's films have been so tricky to pin down in terms of which genre he's working in, it seemed a case of when, and not if, he would tackle an action film.

Free Fire's simplistic set-up gives him the scope to use his own style within the format, and he certainly succeeds in an exemplary effort that maintains pace throughout and makes for a satisfying and joyous watch.

The plot's heavy lifting takes place, and is done and dusted, within the first 20 minutes or so - a gun deal between the IRA and an arms dealer goes awry when two opposing men discover they have history from the night before.

A shot is fired and all hell breaks loose.

What follows is balletic action (shot through with a gritty realism), laugh-out-loud humour and people getting shot at regular intervals.

If that makes it seem reductive it both is and it isn't - that is indeed what happens for the remainder of the film, but in the hands of a director as skilled as Ben Wheatley, your attention never wavers, caught up in the maelstrom that engulfs the characters as alliances are formed, broken apart and duplicitous dealings take place.

Wheatley co-wrote the script with wife and regular collaborator Amy Jump, and for those who have watched Wheatley's previous films (and if not, why not?) the rich seam of dark humour they mine is ever-present



by GARETH JAMIESON

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here.

In what is essentially a 90-minute Mexican stand-off, the script plays out as one long action scene, the beats carefully laid out allied to characters that we learn just enough about to engage with.

You can imagine each of the actors has a detailed backstory of who their character is and their lives away from the warehouse, but what is cleverly shown on screen is just enough to keep you invested in them, drip feeding you parts of their character as the film progresses.

While all dangerous people, their malevolence is never overly amped up - instead it's played lightly as characters wind each other up and build tensions that will come boiling to the surface once the bullets start flying.

The ensemble are all superb, all deftly realised by some skilled performers, whether they are established

Hollywood stars like Brie Larson, Cillian Murphy and Armie Hammer, or homegrown actors like Michael Smiley, Jack Reynor and Sam Riley.

They all bring something to the table, but stand-out is Sharlto Copley's turn as South African arms dealer Vernon. With his fancy haircut, Savile Row suits and suitably cheesy catchphrase "Watch and Vern", Copley is excellent in a sea of superb performances.

Visually Wheatley conveys the grit and realism of the 1970s, the gun violence feeling realistic rather than stagey - bullets leave their mark, gun shots are as haphazard as you would expect from people clinging desperately to their lives - yet those familiar with his work will recognise his small touches.

More directly accessible than his other films, *Free Fire* is the work of a director confident and assured - as straightforward as it may seem, its simplicity is key in creating a film that is funny, captivating and hugely watchable.

VERDICT - Ben Wheatley's unique take on an American gangster staple, *Free Fire's* 90-minute shootout is sublimely realised. The script is superb in its economy.

Wheatley's direction is efficient and realistic and the performances across the board are superb. *Free Fire* certainly hits its target in one of the best films of the year so far.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Reservoir Dogs* (1992), *High Rise* (2015)

Vernetta at Foxy's



From April 8 to 22 there is an exhibition of work by the artist Vernetta at Foxy's delicatessen in Penarth, offering audiences a central display of three-dimensional cameo/driftwood pieces.

Her second project at the moment is the creation of a book: 'Walking the Waves' containing information and images regarding the piers of Wales. 34 artists/craftspersons have submitted details of their work (and of themselves) with a digital print showing their images, and giving a description of the approach they have used.

Appropriate images and information could still be included and the deadline for this is June 1.

Further information can be obtained by calling Vernetta on 01446 730639. Vernetta O'Connor www.vernetta.co.uk

What's on, and where?

Easter Family Fun with GVS

ALL are welcome for crafts, celebration and tea at Bethel Baptist Church, Barry on Saturday, April 15 from 4pm – 6pm.

Diabetes event

THE next meeting is on Tuesday, April 18 in the Board Room at Llandough Hospital, Penarth from 7.30pm – 9pm.

The speaker will be Ian Jones, optician, who will speak on eye problems associated with diabetes and general eye care advice. Anyone welcome!

Sponsored walk in Sully

THE Saving Sully group are holding a sponsored walk on Sunday, April 30 meeting at the Jubilee Hall at 10.30am, and will commence their walk at 11am.

The marshalled route will be to Cosmeston Lakes and returning via Swanbridge where refreshments will be provided at the Seashore Grill; then along the new coastal footpath back to the Jubilee hall.

The walk is to raise funds to provide defibrillators for Sully, Swanbridge, and Lavernock. Any donations also welcome for this worthwhile

cause.

All ages are welcome to take part, parents with prams, pushchairs and dogs on leads.

Sponsorship forms are available from the Jubilee Hall, The Sully Club Restaurant, Sully post office, The Old School, Sully School, and SSG website.

Donations can also be made to SSG via Paypal at website

www.savingsully.org.uk.

KPC Youth charity golf event

ON Friday, June 23 KPC Youth & Community are holding their annual charity golf day at the Grove Golf Club, Porthcawl.

Entry for teams of four is £160 per team (but we are offering an 'Early Bird' deal of £140 for any entries/payments received by April 30). Entry includes coffee on arrival, golf fees and a buffet meal following the round of golf.

Sponsorship is also sought for raffle/auction prizes or £50 to sponsor a hole. For team entry forms/more details call Alison on 01656 749219;

kpcyouth@hotmail.com.

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John added: "We have staff with over 28 years of experience on all makes of vehicles. All our work is undertaken to the highest of standards. We also serve many garages and car sale showrooms within the Vale area with specialist services."

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Lee qualified at Hartnell VW/Audi Cardiff and worked there for four years, and was then was employed at Sytner BMW Cardiff for six years.

He then moved to a family-run garage in Dinas Powys which specialised in repairs and restoration of classic Jaguars.

Lee started Aven's Autos two years ago and he explained: "At Aven's Autos, we carry out vehicle repairs of more or less any kind."

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Spring Cowbridge Feature



King Fox opened recently with trusted brands such as Olymp, Santinelli Tailoring, Bruhl, John Smedley and Aquascutum.

Get out and about in Cowbridge now Spring is here – IT'S THE THING TO DO!

THE arrival of blue skies and the approach of Easter are a pretty good sign that Spring is here, and hopefully the cold, grey and damp days of Winter are on the wane.

Suddenly, you have the option of sitting outside with a cold beer or glass of wine, rather than heading indoors to get warm with a hot drink, and it is this change of season that always suits Cowbridge.

It is, above all else, a town to mooch about in. Somewhere to take your time and relax, making sure you don't miss what's new or special – rather than rushing from A to B to get out of the cold.

What's new is always the question to ask in the town. It might be new businesses that have sprung up in recent months – or it might simply be, what's new in shops that you know and trust?

As Cowbridge is still keeping the chain stores at bay, it means that many businesses are run and staffed by locals – locals who make their own decision about new lines, rather than just unpacking what head office has decreed to be the hot thing this year.

Shops in Cowbridge have built up their own



GW St Clears offers everything to make a house into a home.

supply chains, and what's new this season is not being replicated in dozens of other outlets around south Wales.

One of the joys of running your own business is backing your own judgement on what will be popular among your own customers.

It's fair to say that Cowbridge customers and shop owners have a more personal relationship than elsewhere in the retail malls or in the chain store world.

Alison Williams, in *Pebble*, is a good example. She is delighted that she is able to offer her customers the new jewellery range from Blaze Design – a Cowbridge company in fact.

Alison said: "Blaze is not a new name for us. We have stocked their products for some time now, but it is getting to the point where there is

a real buzz, waiting for the Spring/Summer collection."

Key to the Blaze range is sterling silver, hand-made jewellery, using freshwater pearls, crystals and semi-precious stones.

Alison has the latest ranges from some other old favourites too, with Scandinavian cotton knitwear from Odd Molly, and fresh stock from Gant and Hatley.

Cowbridge continues to attract new businesses to the town. A pizza and pasta restaurant is on the way – as is an ice cream parlour by day, which will transform into a cocktail bar at night.

However, one new business that is up and running – since – November of last year – is *King Fox*, a menswear store run by *Leila Thornton*.

For Leila, it is a case of keeping it in the family. Her grandfather

bought the adjoining premises in 1958. At the time, it was a barber's, run by Victor Grubb.

In truth, he didn't know what to do with his new premises, and Leila's grandmother had a few choice words for him about that impulse buy!

However, after a few days, she decided to open a dress shop – Bettina's – and was a fixture in Cowbridge for many years.

She expanded, buying the adjoining premises, and it is from this shop that King Fox trades.

Leila said: "I didn't want to have very high end prices, but the quality is still there – with all garments made in the UK or in Europe."

Business has been good since King Fox opened in November. Trusted brands such as Olymp, Santinelli Tailoring, Bruhl, John Smedley and Aquascutum mean that customers can be assured of good quality – and Leila has her grandmother's genes when it comes to retailing!

Also on the High Street is *GW at St Clears* which has now been open for two-and-a-half years – so it can't be classed as new.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



Blaze Designs jewellery is a popular line in *Pebble* – and the new season's range is now in stock!

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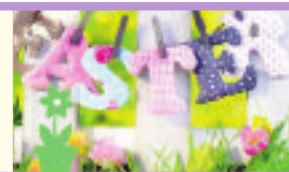
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Spring Cowbridge Feature



So many reasons to visit Cowbridge!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

However, it does come under the category of 'slow burner' because its aim is to give just a flavour of the company's showroom in west Wales, where they have built the business up over 40 years.

A company spokeswoman said: "For nearly 40 years, we have had the privilege of respectfully working and improving our clients' homes."

"Ever since we opened our lifestyle showroom in Cowbridge, we have been able to offer our product portfolio and services to the Vale and surrounding counties."

"We offer a turnkey installation service, where our dedicated team of tradespeople take care of absolutely everything from top to bottom, whether for a new kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, study, hallway or living room"

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Of course, choosing somewhere to go for a day out isn't all about shopping, and Cowbridge is bubbling over with choice if you just want to take in pleasant surroundings, and then pause for a coffee, light lunch, bar meal or to eat out in style.

These days, a visit to the walled Physic Garden is a must. It's an object lesson on what can be achieved by a group of motivated volunteers who care about their town.

What was an overgrown garden – neglected for many years – is now a peaceful idyll that has a fascinating educational aspect as well.

The neighbouring Old Hall Gardens have been



Kate Thomas and Holly Howells at Sylvia Williams Chemists.

cared for by more volunteers, and further along, the livestock market is still active every Tuesday. On other days, it is very useful as a free parking area.

At Sylvia Williams Chemists in the High Street, pharmacist Kate Thomas has just introduced three prestigious Continental skincare brands.

She said: "We want to make this pharmacy a centre of excellence for skincare."

The products are specialised and, as a result, staff have been given detailed training. Holly Howells is the shop's skincare expert, and she



The Pencil Case supplies Scouting and Guiding uniforms, too.

explained: "We have La Roche Posay and Vichy from France, and the Swiss company Mavala as well."

"La Roche Posay products are formulated to tackle rosacea, eczema, teenage acne and cracked skin, among others. They are conditions that cause a great deal of distress, and La Roche has been working with dermatologists in this field for many years."

"Vichy has a range of make up products and, in particular a foundation, Dermablend, that is designed to hide damaged skin and tattoos, and is very effective."

She continued: "Mavala specialises in creams that moisturise tired skin, and that rejuvenate wrinkles. It's another range that has a strong reputation."

In Eastgate, Sally Stephenson runs the Pencil Case which supplies all things relating to writing – whether for business or pleasure.

It's a treasure trove for youngsters, although grown-ups are well catered for too.

Her Easter table – described by Sally as an alternative to an overload of chocolate, is packed with Easter-themed items, from bonnets to balloons, colouring and sticker books, and Easter cards in English and Welsh.

One product line – twako erasers – are so sought after that she is introducing a loyalty card. The distinctive designs cost just £1 each, and from Easter, 10 stamps on the card will mean the next one is free!

Some Cowbridge traders, of course, are not here every day. Glamorgan Lamb, based in Ystradowen, expect their regular customers to be flocking to the Farmers' Market on Easter Saturday in Arthur John's Car Park.

John Davies, who runs Glamorgan Lamb, explained: "We have an established reputation as the first in Wales to have Spring lambs on sale."

"We plant a root crop in the autumn and when the lambs arrive in January, that diet of roots and mother's milk makes all the difference."



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Glamorgan Lamb do not trade solely at the Farmers' market. They can be contacted on the telephone number shown on their advertisement in this feature.

On Cowbridge High Street, the Elephant & Bun delicatessen is gearing up for Easter with a new range of Welsh artisan beers and ciders that will make any family party go with a swing.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33



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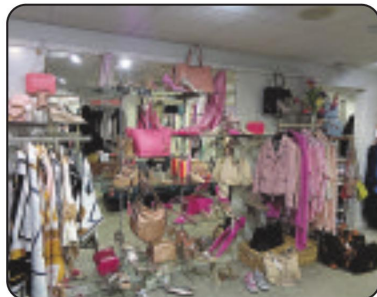
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Spring Cowbridge

SPRING INTO COWBRIDGE!



Jon Ian will guarantee you're in the pink this season.



Fancy spinning a yarn? La Mercerie, in Old Mason's Yard, is the place to go.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32

And now is the time to order your quiches, cheeses, salads and cakes for such special events as wedding receptions, christenings, family reunions and farewells.

Don't forget the deli's great range of home made sausage rolls, plus hot-off-the-griddle Welsh cakes as sampled at No 10 Downing Street last month. And Saturdays wouldn't be the same without Hay-on-Wye baker Alex Gooch's beautiful artisan breads and Nata's custard tarts and doughnuts; only available for sale in Cowbridge at the Elephant & Bun Deli.

Across the road from The Bun, is **Jon Ian**, run by **Esther Hitchcock**, which has settled into new and larger premises.

Esther said: "The extra space means that we can display a much bigger selection of designer shoes at affordable prices."

"It's like walking into Spring, with all the colours on show."

"Remember, we have every type of footwear from waterproof boots to shoes and bags for every occasion."

Jean Tait runs **La Mercerie**, in Old Mason's Yard, and supplies all types of yarn and things connected with knitting. Knitting is a pretty social thing, and a number of groups

meet at Jean's shop to compare notes and enjoy a gossip while they knit.

In fact, in June, Jean is hoping to bring as many knitters as possible from around the area together for a charity event.

She said: "On Saturday, June 10, it will be 'worldwide knitting in public day' and we have decided to get together to support another charity event, organised by the Jo Cox Foundation."

"That charity is putting on community street parties, and we will be knitting bunting to help with the street party decorations."

Merger will take law firms to new heights



Left to right: Glamorgan Law's Richard Beech, JCP Solicitors' Hayley Davies, Glamorgan Law's Peter Davies and JCP Solicitors' Kevin O'Brien.

GLAMORGAN Law, based in The Pavilion on the main street in Cowbridge, is entering an exciting new phase, having announced a forthcoming merger with JCP Solicitors.

With offices across south Wales in Cardiff, Cowbridge, Pontypridd and Caerphilly, Glamorgan Law has a sound reputation for providing a comprehensive range of legal services, while JCP Solicitors is one of the most highly regarded legal businesses in south and west Wales, with established offices in Swansea, Carmarthen and throughout Pembrokeshire.

The coming together of the two businesses, on April 25, 2017, will see JCP Solicitors invest in

Glamorgan Law's existing offices, with all partners and employees of Glamorgan Law currently based at those offices remaining within the merged company.

Glamorgan Law has eight directors and 50 additional members of staff, with Senior Partners Peter Davies and Richard Beech, who is currently based in Cowbridge, taking up business ownership in JCP.

The newly-merged law firm will have a turnover in excess of £10 million and it is projected that this merger will make it one of the top 200 law firms in the UK*.

*Projection based upon the criteria of the Lawyer Magazine's Top 200 list 2016.

Police officers donate £2,000 to special care baby unit in Bridgend



Laura Sutherland, staff nurse, holding three-week-old Nate; PC Ceri Francis; DCI Dinlle Francis; Amanda Dyer, senior staff nurse; PC Rea David and Anthony Hopkins, father of newborn twins Cody and Conor.

OFFICERS and staff at a Bridgend police station have munched through a mound of chocolate and snacks to raise a staggering amount for a local cause.

Police Constables Rea David and Ceri Francis were recently able to hand over £2,000 to the Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) at the Princess of Wales Hospital, thanks to colleagues' support for the tuck shop they run at Bridgend Bridewell station.

The money was raised in just 12 months, and staff at the hospital unit plan to put it to good use buying a portable breast pump and equipment to furnish the family room.

PC Rea David said: "We chose the baby unit to benefit from the proceeds of this year's

tuck shop because some of the officers and staff have had their own babies cared for at the SCBU, so they know first-hand the amazing work they do there.

"Myself, PC Francis and DCI Dinlle Francis recently visited the unit to hand over the money, and the team there were delighted."

"It was great for us to meet not only some of the team, but also some of the families who are currently benefiting from their amazing care."

"We'll now be looking to nominate another good cause to benefit from next year's snack breaks. Any non-profit organisations or charities who'd like to be considered should email me at rea.david@south-wales.pnn.police.uk"

Councillor to stand as an independent in local elections

SENIOR Town and former Vale councillor, Anthony Ernest, has confirmed that he is standing as an independent candidate in the forthcoming council elections for both the Vale and Penarth.



Coun Ernest has been a member of Penarth Town Council for many years, and has a record of election successes on the Vale Council where he was a cabinet member for a decade, holding various responsibilities which included council housing and public buildings, and more recently leisure, tourism and the arts.

Coun Ernest who was born in the Plymouth Ward ('South and West Penarth') said: "I have been asked to put my

name forward for both councils, as we need strong leadership, considerable experience and a real commitment to each of these widely differing roles in Welsh local government, at this time.

"Having been a Vale and town councillor both in power as well as opposition has given me the confidence to once more take on these roles, which are essential in delivering quality services to the people of Penarth and beyond, and I look forward to that challenge once again."

GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

'Why not relocate waste bins on Friar's Point'

MY husband and I are regular walkers on Barry Island and have noticed a plethora of new waste bins near the beach hut area; plus we are amused by the nine we counted on top of the newly refurbished shelter, as usually there's not a soul on the top of the shelter and the bins are unused and pristine – as are the

many benches.

It would be sensible to re-site some of these new bins and put them where they are needed on Friar's Point, but it may have something to do with the fact the council bin truck can drive back and forth along the prom without anyone having to physically walk to empty them.

All the bins seem to be driven to, which is why there aren't many on the Point where lots of people are walking and it would be of great benefit to visitors. **ML Healey, Barry.**

'More to pollution than smoke'

IS Coun Moore really so naive to believe that pollution is only caused by "smoke and fumes"?

("Don't spread untruths over new energy plant" – The GEM, March 30.) Perhaps he should look up asbestosis and pneumoconiosis (miner's lung) for a start.

Sarah Jones, Barry.

Friends and Neighbours join the cocktail set!

FRIENDS and Neighbours senior citizen group that meets at Beryl Road Pioneer Hall every month had its spring lunch at The Glamorgan Suite in Barry.

Around 40 members of the group enjoyed a tasty three-course lunch with a welcome cocktail on arrival. The tables were tastefully decorated and the venue was very comfortable.

The students made them very welcome and chatted to them while waiting for their meal. They enjoyed a starter of soup or chicken salad, which was followed by roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes and vegetables.

Dessert followed with

Eton Mess with raspberry coulis. The students were very attentive to the members' needs and nothing was too much trouble.

For many of the members it was their first visit and they said how lovely the experience had been, and that they would go again.

A vote of thanks was given to the hospitality and catering students from Vale College which was well applauded by the members.

Members are now looking forward to their Easter party with Barry Male Voice Choir providing the entertainment.

Call Gay Fifield on 01446 400044 for further information.



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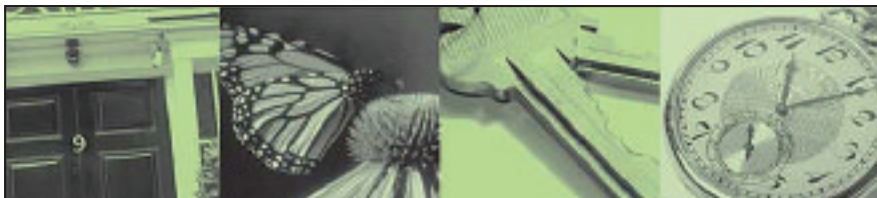
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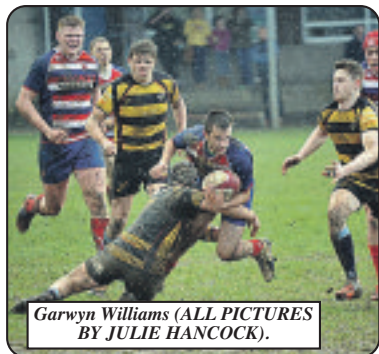
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Pencoed youth reach cup final AND UNDER-15s RECORD FINE WIN



Garwyn Williams (ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK).



Jake Lloyd.



Evie Evans.

PENCOED youth progressed to the Bridgend & District Youth Cup final with this semi-final victory at Kenfig Hill.

Pencoed opened the match scoring after 18 minutes of fairly even play, winning the ball in the home 22 and moving it wide through their midfield backs to put left wing Garwyn Williams in possession and Williams stepped inside his opposite number to race over wide out from 22 metres, Jacob Lloyd adding a fine conversion.

A further two penalty goals from Lloyd saw Pencoed lead 13-0 at the interval.

Pencoed increased their lead early in the second half with another well-judged 40-metre penalty goal from Lloyd.

The home side, now enjoying pitch advantage, began to pressure Pencoed in their own 22 and following sustained attack got a well-deserved try through their busy No 9 who also added the conversion.

With the match scoreline at 7-16 and with five minutes of normal time left on the clock, Lloyd added another fine 40 metre penalty goal and Pencoed now had one foot in the final.

They were not finished, however, and a sweeping attack involving forwards and backs saw outside half Sam Costelow send out a long floated pass to Williams and the wing took his chance to cross for his second try to set the seal on a fine victory.

The win for Pencoed

was based on a solid pack performance, the purposeful scrummaging of Josh Richards, hooker Joe Daniel, and Dylan Bishop-Roberts in the ascendancy, with the back row of Jack Thompson, Jack Walker, and No8 Tom Williams also to the fore.

Second row Joe Owen ensured Pencoed line out possession whilst also picking off a number of home lineout throws. Behind the scrum the kicking axis of Costelow and Lloyd at 10 and 12 respectively brought dividends with its variation and the impressive finishing of wing Williams also caught the eye.

Pencoed Phoenix under-15 girls recorded a fine 38-0 win over visitors Gowerton, all six tries coming from their backs.

Evie Evans, Mya Dixon, Katryn Stacey, Erin Smith, Breeze Davies and Mia Davies all crossed the whitewash, and Evans added three conversions with Dixon getting another. The plucky Gowerton side were competitive throughout.

Pencoed RFC continues to provide quality players to the national squads.

Over the international season Jack Pope represented Wales at under-20 level in the Six Nations, with Dewi Cross and Tommy Reffell making their debut in the superb 29-22 under-18 victory over England.

Congratulations go to the players, their families and everyone involved with their development.

TR

PORTHCAWL BRIDGE CLUB NEWS ROUND-UP



ABOVE: Competition winners Sue Anthony, Trish Saunders, Janet Richards, Tony Haworth and Gary Williams.

PORTHCAWL Bridge Club recently held annual competitions for the Ladies Pairs Championship (Gaskell Cup) and the Men's Pairs Championship (Cornish Cup).

The ladies' winners were Trish Saunders and Sue Anthony and the men's winners were Gary Williams and Tony Haworth.

Other latest results are: Saturday, March 18: first, John Beard and Roger Draper; second, Janet Richards and Trish Saunders.

Thursday, March 23: first, John Beard and Roger Draper; second, Janet Richards and Trish Saunders.

Bridgend Bridge Club results

The results for recent events at Bridgend Bridge Club are:

Wednesday, March 29: First, Graham Jones and Irene Thomas; Second, Marjorie Morris and Wendy Williams; Equal Third, Steve Burgoyne and John Evans & Keith Davis and Bill Turner. The winners on handicap were Graham Jones and Irene Thomas.

Thursday, March 30: First, Mike Williams and John Henson; Second, Leila O'Hagan and Diane Reynolds; Third, Teresa Griffiths and David Newman. The winners on handicap were Diane Reynolds and Leila O'Hagan.

Friday, March 31: First, Irene Thomas and Carolyn Matthews; Second, Linda Pinnock

and Dennis Mottram; Third, John Moore and Colin Lewis. The winners on handicap were John Moore and Colin Lewis.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to begin at 7pm - it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early to enable a prompt start.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, again at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle bridge session when advice is available on the bidding.

While Master Points are awarded it remains a relaxed occasion. All sessions are played in a friendly manner and visitors and new members are always welcome.

Lessons for beginners take place on Thursday mornings at 11.30am. There is usually a seminar at 1.30pm for those who want to improve their game.

For further information about the club please contact Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968, John Evans on 01656 880372 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

Title in the balance as Porthcawl end season with win

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 48

The afternoon was peppered with heavy showers and this made for slippery conditions for both sides.

Porthcawl suffered an early blow when lock and reliable line-out jumper Ford Cooper was forced off with a knee injury, replaced by flanker Jake Furness as the Seaweeds shuffled their pack.

Harris did bring the home side level just moments later as his excellent 40-metre penalty strike brought it level at 3-3.

Tonmawr were giving as good as they got by trying to create chances and Porthcawl wing David Hughes saved the day with a superb catch and mark near his own line as the home backs pressed for the corner.

Flanker James Burge-Davies, a consistent performer all season for the Seaweeds, produced one of his trademark bullocking runs into the home half to set up a ruck.

When the ball went loose on the home side, the clearing kick was charged down and centre Mike Gubb continued his try-scoring habit as he won the 30 metre race for the touchdown for a fine try, improved by White for 3-10.

Porthcawl suffered another injury blow and had to re-shuffle their pack for a second time as influential flanker Leon McNally was forced to limp off, with prop Matt Cooke coming on before the Porthcawl lead was increased with their second try.

Josh White's massive clearance downfield allowed wing David Hughes to chase the ball to the corner and as he tried diving on the ball for the score, he was pulled back off the ball for a penalty try, which White converted for 3-17.

beckoned, Porthcawl scrum-half Connor Rees found himself a huge gap to exploit and he sprinted up-field fully 40 metres. However, the defence recovered to scramble clear.

The second half saw Porthcawl make wave after wave of attacks, however the home side's stubborn resistance coupled with less than clinical finishing by Porthcawl, saw chance after chance come to grief. It seemed that the harder Porthcawl strove for the bonus point try, the more frustrating their efforts became.

With skipper Richard Hnyda leading the way, several of his pack took it upon themselves to charge at the home defence, with hooker Jack Williams particularly getting close to a try as he split the defence.

Well into the final quarter, Porthcawl's persistence finally paid off as they notched their third try, with White's huge miss-pass going left, putting wing Jake Thomas in at the corner, bettered only by White's huge touchline conversion for a score of 3-24.

With time ticking away, with Porthcawl forcing play, a combination of forward passes and desperate Tonmawr defence brought groans from the travelling Porthcawl support as the elusive fourth try failed to materialise.

The final whistle sounded to bring the victory and end Porthcawl's best season for many years and they will now have to sit and watch the final matches to be played by local rivals Bridgend Sports, to see which side is crowned the division's champions.

Sports under-11s have a spring in their step!

PERFECT spring weather graced Bridgend Sports under-11s' final home game of what has been a season disrupted by the wet weather.

With the warm sun on their backs, the Sports sparked against a proud and spirited Ystrad Rhondda team.

The Sports kicked off, and Ystrad Rhondda were keen to move the ball but came unstuck at the first ruck as the home team players followed up the kick with a strong defensive line.

With possession secured, the Sports looked to move the ball through the hands to players in space.

Within minutes of the start the Sports had placed points on the board, as they scored two early tries, the first through wing Tom Chick

and the second from outside-half Cian John.

Ystrad Rhondda looked to fight back but could not retain possession, the final pass just would not stick for them and with the Sports players finding some form as the season draws to a close, it was always going to be difficult for the away team.

Tom Coles, Bailey Llewellyn Hopkins, Meg Lewis, Dylan Morgan, Callum Lewis, Cadan Hayes, Mackenzie Dent, Iestyn John, Tyrion Davies and Tyler Burton all crossed the line to score for the Sports to register a win with dignity in their final home game of the season.

Ystrad Rhondda were spirited and mounted a number of attacks but unfortunately could not find their way across the try line.

Both teams showed

great respect for each other and left the field with smiles on their faces in a fitting testament to the importance of developing all players to sustain the future of the community game.

Bridgend Sports now look forward to their spring tour to west Wales next week, when they will play Narberth and Tenby.

They will finish their season at the Pencoed tournament on April 23 before their presentation day on April 30.

The club will then have a short break before returning to training in early summer.

With the game moving from 12-a-side to 15-a-side next season, the Sports are keen to add to their squad. New players are always welcome to join, please visit the Bridgend Sports Facebook page for contact details.

Bridgend Sports squad: Bailey Llewellyn Hopkins, Cadan Hayes, Callum Lewis, Chloe Gant, Cian John, Dylan Morgan, Harri Edmunds, Iestyn John, Ieuan Pilliner, Jodie Keane, Mackenzie Dent, Mason Balmer, Megan Lewis, Tom Chick, Tom Coles, Tyler Burton, Theo Clarke and Tyrion Davies. SP

Call to golfers

KPC Youth and Community are holding their annual Charity Golf Day on Friday, June 23 at the Grove Golf Club, Porthcawl - and are looking for golfers to take part.

Team entry for teams of four is £160 per team, with an 'early bird' cost of £140 for any entries/payments received by April 30.

Entry includes coffee on arrival, golf fees and a buffet meal following the round of golf.

Sponsorship is also sought for raffle/auction prizes or £50 to sponsor a hole.

For team entry forms or more details, contact: Alison on 01656 749219; or kpcyouth@hotmail.com.

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Family Notices

VENTON Thomas

Sadly at home on 28th March 2017, Tom, aged 92 years. Dearly loved husband of Rona, much loved dad of Clive, Adrian and the late Kevin. Cherished grandfather and great grandfather, also a loved twin brother of Enid.

Tom will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service at St Helen's Roman Catholic Church on Tuesday, 11th April at 11am, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu, if so desired, for Dementia UK c/o the funeral Director.

DAVIES Grace Shirley

Peacefully at home in Ogmore by Sea, on 24th March after a short illness, Shirley, beloved wife of the late Howard, much loved mum of Christine, mum-in-law of Gerald, and cherished nan to Rachael, Tom and Lorraine, their partners and her great grandchildren, Jack and our angel baby Ieuan.

Resting at JR & MF David Funeral Home, St Brides Major, until the cremation at Cychurch Crematorium at 11am on Friday, 7th April. Family flowers only please, donations, if wished, to MacMillan Nurses.

JONES Geoffrey Peter

Peacefully at home after a brave fight and with his family present, Geoff, aged 67 years. Beloved husband of Julie, much loved dad of Angela, Simon and Siân. Loved step dad to Darren and Vincent, loved grandad to Oliver, Jamie and Imogen, loved brother of Ruth, Malcolm and families. Also loved by Julie's grandchildren Evan and Ruby.

Geoff will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium on Wednesday, 12th April at 1.15pm. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu, if so desired, for Cancer Research UK c/o the funeral director.

GOLDMAN Myfanwy Ann

Sadly after a short illness bravely fought at Holme Tower on 31st March 2017, Myfanwy, aged 80 years. Devoted wife of Cyril, much loved sister of Yvonne and dear aunt to Lesley.

Myfanwy will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the private family service which takes place on Monday, 10th April.

LIOSATOS Dimitri

Peacefully on 1st April at Springbank Nursing Home, Barry, Dimitri, aged 89 years, previously of Gaen Street, Barry. Dearly loved father of Alexandra, Jason and father-in-law of Rick and Louise. Cherished grandfather of Limony, Amelia and Willow.

Dimitri will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral on Thursday, 13 April, service in the chapel at 3pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry, 4pm.

JONES Richard

The family wish to announce the sad passing of Richard on 1st April at the University Hospital of Wales. Richard was well known for his time at Barry College, a keen bowler at Romilly Bowls Club and for his love of dancing. A beloved husband to the late Jean and long time companion of the late Betty. A loving dad to Carol, Gail, Debbie and Stuart. Much loved father-in-law to Steve, Gary and Mary. An adored grandpa to his five grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Richard is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until his service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium on Wednesday, 12th April 2017 at 11am. Family floral tributes only. Donations, gratefully appreciated, may be made at the service or via Richard's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk where you are also welcome to leave your personal messages and memories. All donations received to support Barry Dock RNLI & British Heart Foundation.

In Memory

GWILLIAM

Arthur John

Treasured memories of my darling husband Arthur, dearest dad of Judith, respected father-in-law of Steve and adored gramps of Abbie and Lucie.

Always in our hearts and thoughts.

Thank You

Thank you Jo & Tony Meakin

We would like to thank our family and friends who attended our Golden Wedding Anniversary party on 31 March at St Athan Golf Club. It made our special day an extra special day. Also, many thanks for all the lovely presents give to us.

Birthdays

David Brinsdon

Happy 80th Birthday

on the 8th April 2017

*Lots of love
Ann, Ian, Fay, Cristina,
Jared & all your friends
and family xxx*

Birthdays

Happy Birthday DARREN BAKER

on 9 April.

*Lots of Love,
Sue, Joe, Abi
and all the
family xxx*



Happy Birthday Gillian



*from all your friends
at The Gem*

CLAY Robin (Cass)

Happy 70th Birthday

*Love from Pat, Sarah
& Michael, Laura & Mark,
Robert & Lizzie, &
grandchildren Lauren,
Kelsey, Olivia,
Sam & William xxx*

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Public Notice

NOTICE

Pursuant to s27 of the Trustee Act 1925. Re **MELVIN LEWIS** PRICE deceased.

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the estate of the above named late of Ty Fry Cottage Llantrithyd Cowbridge CF71 7UB who died on the 6th October 2016 are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before two months and one day from the date of this publication after which date the estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have then had notice.

Rosemarie James, Executor, C/o Bridgend Wills & Estate Planning Ltd, The Old Post Office, 13 Ewenny Road, Bridgend, CF31 3HN.

The application is for: Opening hours: Daily 08.00 - 23.00. Supply of alcohol - on and off premises: Daily 08.00 - 23.00.

Any persons wishing to make representations to this application may do so in writing to: The Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU, or by email to licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk not later than 28 days after the date of this notice. Representations received after this date will not be considered. A copy of the application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make false statements in connection with this application. The maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

Signed: Richard Hayward Date: 28.03.2017

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Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern, I Richard Hayward, do hereby give notice that I have applied to the Licensing Authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the grant of a premises licence at The Esplanade, Penarth, CF64 3AS known as Crazy Cafe.

The application is for: Opening hours: Daily 08.00 - 23.00. Supply of alcohol - on and off premises: Daily 08.00 - 23.00.

Any persons wishing to make representations to this application may do so in writing to: The Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU, or by email to licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk not later than 28 days after the date of this notice. Representations received after this date will not be considered. A copy of the application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make false statements in connection with this application. The maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

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Signed: Richard Hayward Date: 28.03.2017

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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2017/00229/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Demolition and re-instatement of rear stone boundary wall; construction of new 1.5-storey garage with accommodation over, plus rear driveway with 3 parking spaces; stripping of existing roof covering to main house and re-instatement of grade 1 natural slate
Location:/Lleoliad: 77, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Conservation Area/
Ardal Gadwraeth: Cowbridge

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2016/01389/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Proposed alterations and extensions together with new separate access across part of adjacent field; The Lodge, Castle Upon Alun, St Bride's Major
Location:/Lleoliad: Grade II
Listed Building/
Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2017/00222/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Replace external signage like or like including fascia sign, projecting sign, branch nameplate and branch opening hour signs
Location:/Lleoliad: HSBC, 61, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building/
Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2017/00264/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Demolition and re-instatement of rear stone boundary wall; construction of new 1.5-storey garage with accommodation over, plus rear driveway with 3 parking spaces; stripping of existing roof covering to main house and re-instatement of grade 1 natural slate
Location:/Lleoliad: 77, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Listed Building/
Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2017/00084/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Change of Use from C3 to C2. Site to be used for residential care of children and adults with additional needs related to ASD, to include 5 self contained residential units and one shared residential unit
Location:/Lleoliad: Barns at West Aberthaw Farm, Lane - Jct B4265 to West Aberthaw Farm, West Aberthaw
Listed Building/
Adeilad Rhestredig: Affecting West Aberthaw Farmhouse which is a Grade II Listed Building.

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2017/00169/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Single storey bedroom and ensuite extension
Location:/Lleoliad: The Walled Garden, Wenvoe
Listed Building/
Adeilad Rhestredig: Affecting Former walled kitchen garden wall at Wenvoe Castle- W range' which is a Grade II Listed Building.

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2017/00260/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Proposed residential development comprising 11 affordable dwellings along with associated parking, highway and ancillary works, including a new vehicular access/egress for Holm View Leisure Centre
Location:/Lleoliad: Land to the East of Holm View Leisure Centre, Skomer Road, Barry

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2017/00131/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Construction of agricultural building
Location:/Lleoliad: Clark Farm, The Lawns, Cwrt yr Ala Road, Michaelston le Pit

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below,
or via <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir
isod, neu drwy <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 6 April, 2017

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager,
Regeneration and Planning,
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT



The Rhoose Lifeguards Nippers in action at Stillwater Championships

**THE British Surf
Lifesaving
Stillwater
Championships
were held in Cardiff
International Pool
over the weekend of
March 25/26.**

We were lucky to have this event on our doorstep this year and we went with a strong team of 60.

During the two-day event the Nippers competed together as a team, all egging each other on and encouraging and cheering all the way.

The standard for this year was much higher than previous years and so all our Nippers did a great job, with many coming away with personal bests, some medals and new British records were set!

For the boys Ethan Hole attained a silver in

Manikin and a bronze in the Flipper Race. Well done Ethan.

For the girls, Evie Wong broke the British record in the Manikin tow and then Connie Millar stormed in with two golds in the Flipper and Manikin race.

As if two gold weren't enough, she also set two new British records, an amazing achievement.

We are very pleased to have finished 10th out of 28 clubs and the third-best Welsh club.

We would also like to thank all those that helped over the two days with time keeping, moving the Manikins and boards, keeping the Nippers hydrated and fed and also watching to make sure they didn't escape to the fun pool too often!

VW



Local people celebrated as they 'Get On Track'



The 'Get on Track' award winners celebrate with their mentors and team mates.

Front row, from left-to-right: Philippa Tutiatt, Wyn Robson, Ian Richards, Jasmin Bungay, Scott Lewis, Alex Bowen and Christian Roberts. Back row: Get on Track participants.

PARTICIPANTS of the inspirational 'Get on Track' programme were celebrated at a recent award ceremony held at Maesteg Town Hall.

'Get on Track' is a community-based, personal, social and emotional development programme of the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust and was launched in Bridgend county borough last year as Wales' first ever 'Get on Track' initiative.

Using athletes Philippa Tutiatt, ex-Wales' women's rugby winger and Christian Roberts, ex-Bluebird footballer, as both mentors and role models, the programme, supported

by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), helps, said a spokesperson, "to transform the lives of disadvantaged young people aged 16-25 who are not in education, employment or training, or who may be at risk of dropping out, by providing them with opportunities to participate in sport, volunteering, training and employability workshops."

The development sessions have included physical challenges, first aid courses, working with children and mock interviews run by 'Get on Track' partners HALO, Awen, Bridgend College and Careers Wales.

The awards ceremony marked the culmination of the

2016/17 programme and included presentations for the five main awards: Resilience, Determination, Focus, Motivation and Confidence.

Winning the award for 'Resilience' was 20-year old Scott Lewis who overcame various personal challenges and disabilities to continue to attend the programme. He was commended by his mentors for the mental resilience he had demonstrated throughout the programme.

Also commended for the determination he had shown to overcoming his 'fear' of interviews was 17-year old Alex Bowen from Maesteg.

Following his participation in a round of mock interviews, Alex overcame his lack of confidence and was awarded the 'Determination' award, as a result.

Recognised for overcoming his fear of speaking in front of people was 23-year old Ian Richards from Pencoed who, having started the programme late as a quiet, nervous member of the team, was commended for his turnaround into a competent team-player with a new-found focus on his future career goals and was duly awarded the 'Focus' award.

Praised for his enthusiasm and motivation levels was 23-year old Wyn Robson from Sarn, whose passion, drive and energy for the programme and his team saw him presented with the 'Motivation' award.

Lastly, the evening saw 19-year old Jasmin Bungay from Bridgend recognised for her growing confidence levels to become one of the group leaders.

Presented the 'Confidence' award, Jasmin credits the programme for reminding her of the person she used to be and said: "The course has completely changed me and I now want to be the best version of myself that I can be."

"I've tried things that I never thought I would and working with the elite athletes has been inspiring. They keep reminding you that you can do amazing things and that you are just as capable as anyone else to be amazing."

"I want as many young people as possible who don't feel that they are good enough to get involved with this course because they can do it!"

Hosting the award ceremony, Karen Winch, active Bridgend officer for BCBC's Active Young People Department (AYPD), said: "We are extremely proud of the participants of the 'Get on Track' programme here in Bridgend County Borough and it's a pleasure to be part of a ceremony that rewards their hard work."

"The young people taking part in this scheme come from a range of backgrounds. Some may have been in care, suffered bullying, are homeless, or have been at risk of offending, while some are just increasingly facing challenges in finding employment or engaging in education. It is heart-warming to see the exceptional progress made here."

"Elite athletes such as Christian, Philippa, and Dame Kelly Holmes herself, possess unique skills and attitudes. They know exactly what it is like to overcome adversity and still have the will to succeed. I am extremely grateful to Christian and Philippa for sharing these qualities and their time to help our young people to fulfil their potential."

Double Olympic gold medalist Dame Kelly Holmes set up her charity in 2008, and it has so far reached over 300,000 young people.

Last year 68 per cent of young people who took part in 'Get on Track' moved into employment, education or training within five months.

Readers can find out more at www.damekellyholmestrust.org.

June 5 confirmed as start date for new kerbside collections

MONDAY, June 5 has been confirmed as the start date for a new kerbside recycling collection service which will enable Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to meet tough recycling targets that have been set by Welsh Government, a BCBC spokesman reports.

The council completed contract negotiations with Kier Services Ltd last month, appointing them as the local authority's waste partner for the next seven years to provide kerbside recycling and waste collections, as well as three recycling centres in the county borough.

As part of the procurement process, the council also needed to de-brief the other bidding contractors that were considered to have fallen short of the competitive tender requirements.

With the de-briefing process now complete, the council and Kier have decided that a start date of June 5 will give them enough time to prepare for the new service and publicise it widely to all residents.

When giving a report to Cabinet Members last week, the council's director of communities Mark Shephard said: "The new procedures will begin from Monday, June 5 and all residents will receive a full information pack describing the new service in early May."

"More than half of homes will have a change to their collection day from June too, so the pack will also include a new collection calendar. The new recycling containers and waste bags will then be delivered towards the end of May."

The spokesman said that rumours have recently been circulating on social media that the changes to home recycling in Bridgend county borough have been shelved, but Mr Shephard said that is certainly not the case, adding: "Contrary to some social media speculation, there has not been a legal challenge, nor a threat of one. We and Kier are simply being prudent in allowing sufficient time to sensibly implement the new scheme."

In 2015-16, Welsh councils were set a recycling target of 58 per cent, but by 2020 it will be 64 per cent, and then 70 per cent by 2025. A target has also been set for zero landfill waste to be generated by Welsh local authorities in 2050.

To achieve these targets, changes to

household recycling in Bridgend County Borough from Monday 5 June will include the following.

New recycling containers – A new orange sack will be introduced for recycling cardboard, and a new white sack for paper. Residents will also receive a new black caddy, similar to the large food waste caddy, for recycling glass. These new containers will replace the two black boxes, which will no longer be used. Further advice on what to do with black boxes will follow.

The containers used for recycling food waste will stay the same – one small brown caddy (with compostable green bags) for inside the home, and one large brown caddy which is collected from the kerbside. The blue sack for storing plastic and metals will also remain the same. There is no limit on how much recycling each household can put out, and they can receive additional sacks and boxes on request.

The current communal recycling arrangements will continue for residents who live in flats.

New two-bag limit for waste – Homes with up to five residents will be restricted to throwing out a maximum of two waste bags per fortnight. Black bags will no longer be used, as all residents will be given a supply of specially coloured and branded bags for disposing their waste.

Properties with six or seven residents will be able to apply for one additional waste bag each fortnight, while homes containing eight or more people will be able to apply for two extra waste bags per fortnight.

One additional bag will also be provided for homes where ash-producing coal fires provide the primary source of heat, while eligible householders will continue to receive an assisted collection service.

New collection service for nappies and absorbent waste – Homes that produce nappies or other absorbent waste products (not sanitary products) will be able to register for a separate collection for this type of waste, removing the need to put it in their non-recyclable waste bags.

In addition to nappies, the service will cater for wipes and paper tissues. Details on how to register will be publicised soon.

Further details about the new kerbside recycling service, and a full list of Frequently Asked Questions, can be found online at www.bridgend.gov.uk/recycle.

Public can submit film of suspected traffic offences

FROM now on, members of the public will be able to submit footage and images of suspected road traffic offences being committed on the roads of south Wales.

Working in partnership with 'Go Safe', 'Operation Snap' will provide a safe alternative way to share footage of offences seen by motorists. Road traffic offences targeted as part of the operation will include dangerous driving; driving without due care and attention; contravening solid white lines; mobile phone use; improper control of a vehicle, and driving through traffic lights on red.

Assistant Constable Vaughan said: "The operation will enable our communities to help us

assist in a key policing priority, to continue to keep the roads of south Wales safe.

"If people need to contact the police and want to talk to us immediately, they can call 101 or 999 in an emergency."

"Our officers will still be policing the roads in our force area 24 hours a day, seven days a week but we know that members of the public are keen to help, and I am pleased that with the support of Go Safe, we can provide an easier way to submit footage and images either while travelling as a passenger, or using the footage of 'dash cams' that can be submitted at a later date when the driver has finished their journey."

Chief Constable Jeremy Hume, Chris Hume, partnership manager, GoSafe said: "Working with South Wales Police,

Operation Snap will allow us to work together and help simplify the way motorists can report motoring offences. By visiting gosafe.org/contact-us/snap members of the public will be asked to complete a contact form; this will allow a roads policing officer to get in touch and review the footage or images captured."

From March 2017 the Fixed Penalty Notice for using a handheld mobile phone while driving is £200 and six points. In addition any new motorists (driving for less than two years) caught using a device behind the wheel will have their licence revoked – meaning they will have to apply for a new provisional, and take and pass both the practical and theory driving test.

Pencoed Panthers are now 'running in style'



IN February 2016, Pencoed Panthers, a running group, was formed by a group of local women who wanted to support each other in their 'running journey'.

In February 2017, we became a fully affiliated running club. We have nearly 100 members already. We cater for all abilities and retain the ethos of being a friendly, sociable and supportive club while encouraging the competitive side of our members.

We range from a walking group to a 0-5k group for the total beginner to training runs for those of you running in marathons.

We have been lucky enough to gain the sponsorship of a local nail salon, The Art of Nails, who also stock our kit locally.

The owner, Nic Symmonds, is a

member of the running club and about to run the Virgin London Marathon to raise funds for St. John Ambulance.

The club held a launch party and fundraising event in Pencoed Social Club and raised over £700, helping Nic smash her fundraising total.

The support of the Pencoed Social Club has been well received by the Panthers and we are very grateful for their support.

We are also very grateful for our sponsors, Harris Bassett Chartered Accountants, for their donation of £1,000 to help get us up and running.

The continued support of our local businesses and the social club will help support us on our journey. For further information search Pencoed Panthers on Facebook or email pencoedpanthers@gmail.com.

JJ

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Vale Cricket Club opens new facilities

ON Saturday, April 1, the Vale Cricket Club held a grand opening of their new training facilities.

The new nets, sponsored by the Ford Garage in Bridgend, will serve as a crucial element of the club's training ahead of the upcoming season.

Gareth Andrews, chair of the Vale Cricket Club, is hoping that the facilities will help in the expansion of the club's membership, which currently includes two senior teams as well as 50 junior members between

the ages of nine and 15.

The club is also looking to develop partnerships with schools in and around the area, thus encouraging further youngsters into the sport.

Attending the opening were Gary Pesticcio, managing director of Ford Bridgend, Peter Hybart, chief executive of Cricket Wales, Gareth Andrews, chair of the cricket club, Alun Cairns MP and Jane Hutt AM, as well as the club's members who will be enjoying the new facilities over the coming months.

Mr Cairns said of the occasion: "It was fantastic to see members of the club, of all generations, so happy that their training facilities are being upgraded."

"I have no doubt that the enhancement will not only please local cricket enthusiasts, but also encourage others to take up the sport. Best of luck to the club for the season ahead!"

The club's first fixture of the season will be on the April 15 against Brecon.

The Vale of Glamorgan Football League round-up

ONLY three games were played in the Vale this weekend after the overnight deluge saw numerous games postponed.

In the SWFA Intermediate Cup Semi Final, St Athan went into the last four of the competition with a 4-1 win over Nelson Cavaliers of the Taff Ely & Rhymney League.

Saints now go on to play SWFA Alliance League side Penydarren BC this coming Saturday. The game will be played at Rhydyfelin FC.

In the Premier Division in-form Rhose took full advantage of being the only Prem game played by going top of the league with 7-0 demolition of Masons Moving Group.

Although teams below have games in hand, most notably league favourites Vale United who sit just three points behind Rhose but with a huge six games in hand.

In Division One, second place Barry Belgrade's title challenge took a big hit as they were edged out 3-2 by Cogan. The result leaves leaders Barry Athletic B just one win away from claiming the Division One title.

After a programme of midweek games on Wednesday, on the weekend the games of the day in each division look like being Barry Athletic vs Cowbridge Town in the Premier League, Pumas vs Sully in Division One and BV vs Barry Albion in Division Two.

Also Barry Athletic B travel to play Cardiff Airport B in hope of gaining the one more victory to claim the Division One title.

HD

The Barry and District League tables and results

CRIB DIVISION 1:
League table: Liberals 57, Wyndham Cons A 57, Cadoxton Cons B 55, 160, Rhose Social 159, West End C 53, Penarth Cons A 48, Rhose Social B 48, Penarth Moors Boys 146, West End 141, West End Runaways 141, Cadoxton Cons 136, Social B 31.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

League table: West End C 96, West End D 89, Sea View B 86, Allsorts 81, King William XII 79.5, Rhoosters 75, Rhose Social C 70.5, Rugby Club 70.5, Barries Boys 70, Rhose Social B 69.5, Slammers 69.5, Liberals C 62.5, Rhose Social A 60, Cambrian Flyers 51, Liberals A 48.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

League table: Harbour B 90, Savoy A 88, Cadoxton Cons Z 68,

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

League table: Savoy B 72, Liberators 70, Wyndham Cons C 65, Market Street B 65, Harbour A 62, Cadoxton Cons A 61, Market Street C 54, West End B 47, Wyndham Cons D 43, West End A 41, Sully Sports A 40 (* = points deducted).

All league and cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk and on Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

Vale Resort's huge golfing investment

THE Vale Resort in south Wales has invested more than £400,000 in state-of-the-art golf course and greens equipment as the new golf season gets off with a swing.

The resort, home to two championship golf courses, has purchased 16 new high-tech John Deere cutters and mowers to enhance the condition of both the Wales National Golf Course and the Lake Golf Course. It is hoped the new equipment will give its 550-plus members and thousands of visitors, an even better golfing experience this

year. The resort's head green keeper John Borja said: "This state-of-the-art machinery will undoubtedly improve the condition of both courses and make a difference to the way the game is played on them."

"Our aim, every day, is to ensure our golf courses are presented to the highest standards possible," added Mr Borja. "With the excellent support and after care provided by the John Deere network and its local dealer Frank Sutton Ltd, we look forward to doing so for many years to come."

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BMW X1 2.0 20d SE xDrive 5dr, JUST 40,000 MILES FSH PAN/ROOF, Blue, PE10BSU.£11,495



Mercedes-Benz CLK 3.5 CLK350 Sport 7G-Tronic 2dr, BEAUTIFUL FSH LEATHER AMG, Silver, YT55UBJ.£5,795



Mitsubishi Shogun 3.2 DI-DC Elegance 5dr (LWB), FMDSH WITH NAV NEW SHAPE, Green, WU07TKE.£8,495



Nissan Juke 1.2 DIG-T Acenta Premium 5dr (start/stop), NAVIGATION BLUETOOTH MUSIC TEL, 7,700 miles, NV65YKA.£10,495



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64 SUZUKI Swift 1.2 SZL 3-Dr In black with white roof, 19,000 miles, 1 owner**£7,495**

63 CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDi Style-E In encre met with white roof, 52,000 mile diesel hatch, free road tax**£7,495**

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11 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 5-Dr In met black, 47,000 miles, a/c, alloys etc**£5,495**

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58 TOTOYA Yaris 1.3 TR 5-Dr In red, 60,000 miles, very nice example**£3,795**

11 RENAULT Clio 1.5 Diesel Expression 3-Dr In met-blue, 53,000 miles, £20 road tax**£3,695**

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06 SAAB 93 Linear 2.0 Convertible (150) In black with cream leather, 66,000 miles**£3,495**

57 RENAULT Megane 1.5 DCi Dynamique 5-Dr In silver, 49,000 miles, diesel hatch**£2,695**

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Prizes supplied by sponsors Glamorgan Law of Cowbridge with Geraint Davies, Tosh Taylor and captain Ray Thomas.

Dai conquers all-comers at Ashburnham

ASHBURNHAM Golf Club, an exceptional true links golf course situated overlooking the Lougher estuary towards the Gower peninsular proved a very welcoming venue last Thursday for members of The Glamorgan Farmers Golf Society for their monthly meeting generously sponsored by Cowbridge-based solicitors Glamorgan Law.

Currently ranked as the fifth best course in Wales and which over the years has hosted many prestigious professional and amateur championships this favourite Welsh course of Harry Vardon, the six-times winner of the British Open Championship, was in exceptionally good condition although the many bunkers and narrow fairways proved quite an obstacle for some of the competitors. Society members were particularly pleased to welcome back a resplendent David Harris following his recent 'make-over' and even more pleased when he took the prize for being nearest the pin on the difficult par-3 13th hole. Credit must be given to overall winner Dai John who played quite solidly from tee to green to return a winning score

of 34 stableford points to collect the Walker Cup from sponsor's representative Mr Tosh Taylor. Runner-up with 33 points was David Williams followed by Mark Rees and Bryan Owen who also scored 33 points.

Nearest the pin on the Watts & Morgan sponsored par 3-holes together with David Harris were Julian Golunski, Martyn Edward's and Julian Kelly who was also successful in winning the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge sponsored prize for hitting the longest drive down the selected hole.

Society president Geraint Davies returned home with the Premier Turf sponsored bottle of whisky when correctly guessing 29 balls would remain in the adjoining county of Dyfed.

This resulted in £80 being raised for Tenovus Closest to Home Charity. Sincere thanks to the day's sponsor Glamorgan Law Solicitors of Cowbridge for supplying the high quality prizes.

The next meeting of the society is scheduled for Thursday, April 27, when members will be paying their first visit to The Parc Golf club situated between Newport and Cardiff to compete for the NFU Mutual Trophy kindly sponsored by Kelly, Harris and Conlon.

T.McC

Good week for Barry chess club!

THIS has been a good week for the Barry Chess Club with three of our teams in action. We earned two wins and a draw.

The most significant result came on Thursday. At 3pm the Camelots team captain was asked who is in the team for tonight, to which he answered what team? He had overlooked the fact that the Camelots were due to play the Cardiff AJs.

There were some frantic phone calls to find five available players, and the team arrived at the Cardiff YMCA to find no-one knew how to adjust the air conditioning!

This left us playing in sauna like conditions. The boards were so close to one another it was almost a case of breathing in rotation.

Tom Cooke won on time, and this was followed by a victory by Stephen Bonutto and with a further two draws we won 3-2.

We sit in fifth place having earned the magic number of 40.5 points. As St John's College have picked up a penalty we know we have avoided relegation and we still have three games to play.

In Division One, the Bosons took 3.5 points from their home match against the Cardiff Bishops.

There were wins for Steve Cunliffe and Matthew Parry with the other three boards being drawn.

The Bosons remain in fourth place knowing that to avoid relegation they only need a maximum of 2.5 points from their remaining two games.

In Division Three the Quarks travelled to Caerphilly to play the

Rooks.

We managed to return home having shared the spoils, John Ryles and Sam White on the bottom boards winning their matches and Stephen Bonutto on board one getting a draw. We remain in fifth place.

The only thing settled in this division is that the Pontypridd Phoenix will be promoted. Currently in second place are the Cardiff Dragons but they will pick up a penalty regarding the nominated players' game requirement at the end of the season - the actual amount cannot be quantified yet but it will be a minimum of two points.

The promotion and relegation positions may become clearer this week as there are four league games being played. However Nelson have two games still to be rearranged so they may be in a false position.

The Quarks may need 4.5 points to stay up but they have three games to play.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at <http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com>.

PJ

International netballer shows support at Vale tournament



Gwenfo Primary School ran out winners on the day, and were joined by five other Vale schools at the regional finals.

MORE than 180 primary schoolchildren from Vale schools competed in a tournament attended by international netballer Bethan Dyke.

Miss Dyke started playing netball from the age of eight, and watched on from the side-lines at RAF St Athan as young pupils from 18 Vale primary schools competed for the right to attend the regional finals in Cardiff.

Nine volunteer umpires from local secondary schools oversaw over 50 closely-contested matches between rival schools.

Six of the 18 teams would compete in the regional finals on March 30.

Gwenfo ran out as victors, with St David's second, and Cogan finishing third. The other teams to make up the top six were Cadoxton, Bro Morgannwg, and Llangan.

The event was organised by the Vale of Glamorgan Council's sport and play development team, with one council officer commenting: "It was great to see so many schools involved with this event, and the range of abilities competing. All pupils put in a lot of effort, including the volunteer umpires."

Barry Ladies end an excellent season with convincing win

ON a sunny day in Barry, Jenner Park was the perfect setting for the first team's final game in what has been a solid season.

Penybont lined up with a few new and familiar faces having made some recent signings since the teams last met. Having drawn 3-3 with league leaders Caldicot just days earlier, they looked sure to give Barry a hard contested, tight game.

With BTU at full strength for the Seconds v Thirds clash, it was the home side that started the brighter, playing some lovely flowing football on the slick Jenner Park surface.

A couple of early corners were cleared by the resilient Bridgend outfit. With 10 minutes on the clock, captain Stevie Cook whipped in a lovely corner for the lively Naomi Coulson to find the back of the net to give Barry an early confidence boost.

More quality football allowed goal machine Luca Laky to break through and put the hosts 2-0 up. Barry were keeping the ball well, and making it extremely difficult for the away side to get a foothold in the game.

Tracey White, Meg Bailey and captain Cook pulled the strings and it

was another great ball from Cook that set Ellen Phillips through, and she finished with aplomb in the top right hand corner.

The half time score was 3-0 to Barry.

The second half produced very much of the same, and Barry looked very comfortable against a decent outfit that had only lost two league games all season.

Goalkeeper Megan Davies looked as reliable as ever and was destined to add another clean sheet. Emma Thompson, Emily Mortimore and Shanice Donovan looked solid and assured.

Ellie Drew and Coulson were constantly giving the Penybont full backs a torrid time with some superb energy and end product continuing the creativity at Jenner Park.

Strikers Phillips and Laky both added a

second goal each, before Cook then completed the rout by scoring a penalty with the last kick of the game, the final score 6-0.

BTU finished the season second, and two points behind champions Caldicot. It's been a very good season for the senior side. The team will continue training throughout the summer, with plenty of friendlies lined up.

Trials for the first and development team are being held on Sunday, July 2 at Jenner Park from 10am-1pm; all players welcome.

Squad: Megan Davies, Emma Thompson, Ellie Drew, Tracey White, Shanice Donovan, Emily Mortimore, Naomi Coulson, Meg Bailey, Luca Laky, Stevie Cook (c); Ellen Phillips, Hannah Moger, Emily Hill.

Trainer Tim gets a Glimpse of Gold!

GLIMPSE OF GOLD, trained by Tim Vaughan at Aberthin landed the opening BetFred Handicap Hurdle at Uttoxeter last Saturday.

Ridden by 3lb claiming jockey Alan Johns, Glimpse Of Gold, which went off the 9-4 favourite in a field of 10, won by one-and-three-quarter lengths from the top-weighted Edward Elgar, partnered by Pembrokeshire's Sean Bowen.

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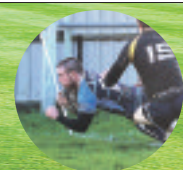
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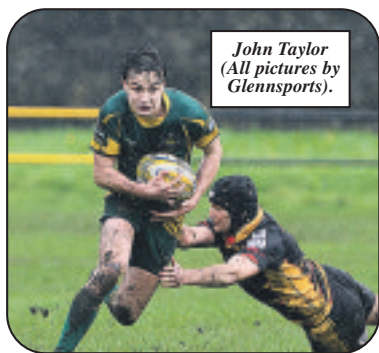


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Athletic sit on top of the table after victory over Maesteg Quins



John Taylor
(All pictures by
Glennsports).

BRIDGEND Athletic avenged an earlier season 8-7 home defeat to run out 17-6 winners against Maesteg at the Old Parish.

This win took the Athletic to first place with 61 points in a very tightly-contested Division One West Central league game.

However only three points separate the

closing pack of Trebanos, Maesteg Quins, Bonymaen and Aberavon Quins, who all have games in hand over the Athletic.

Unfortunately, a sizeable crowd saw the morning sunshine replaced as heavy rain swept across an already heavy ground just before kick-off and persisted until half-time, making handling difficult.

The Athletic applied early pressure and



Jonathan Phillips makes a break.

should have taken the lead – but a penalty awarded for Maesteg illegally pulling down a maul went wide of the mark.

The Athletic players were convinced they had a try when they drove over the try line from a five-metre lineout, but the referee thought otherwise and awarded them a five-metre scrum instead.

The Athletic front three of Matt Muir, Nathan Holman and

Wayne Fooks drove the scrum forward, but Maesteg conceded a penalty to stop the drive. The Athletic reset the scrum but failed to control the ball and the opportunity was lost.

Despite dominating possession and territory the Athletic lacked the composure and tactical nous to turn the advantage into points against a resolute home side, until in the 30th minute when outside half Luke Bevan kicked a 40-metre penalty.

Maesteg then upped their game and levelled the first half with a penalty from outside-half Tadhg McGukin.

Maesteg came out firing at the start of the second half and pressurised the Athletic during the opening 10 minutes, but were unable to break down the Athletic defence with the back row of Ben Howe, Stuart Edbrooke and Chris John and centres Tom Jenkins and John Taylor up to their defensive duties.

The siege was broken when full back Jonathan Phillips kicked from his own 22 to within five metres of the Maesteg try line.

Good following up forced the home side to concede touch on their 22. Hooker Nathan Holman marshalled an excellent driving maul from the lineout and was rewarded with his sixth try of the season. Bevan kicked the conversion to open a 10-3 lead.

Maesteg fought back and a second McGukin penalty narrowed their deficit to 10-6.

Although too many errors by both sides marred the game as a spectacle, the crowd were kept on their feet with the result in doubt.

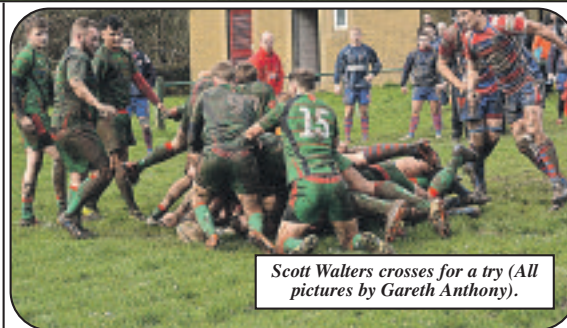
With 10 minutes remaining the Athletic gained a foothold inside the Maesteg 22. A series of five-metre scrums and carries towards the Maesteg line forced the home side to defend desperately.

Lock Jonathon Stoker was convinced he had scored, but again the referee adjudged the ball was held up.

Young scrum half Dan James tried a few snipes before the experienced Griff Davies capped a fine performance finding an opening and crossing for his third try of the season. Bevan converted to seal the 17-6 victory, and became the Athletic's leading points scorer for the season, overhauling Dan Howells with 68 points.

This Saturday, April 8, the Athletic visit fellow league contenders Maesteg Quins – the kick-off time is to be confirmed as the Athletic have requested a later kick-off so supporters can get back from watching the youth Rags team compete in the Welsh Bowl Cup Final at Cardiff Arms Park, kick-off 11am.

AB



Scott Walters crosses for a try (All pictures by Gareth Anthony).

Win sets Tondy up to be crowned as champions this weekend

TONDU'S game took place in a Nantymoel bog and it was the home side that took early control.

After strong early pressure, a cross kick by outside half Simon Evans saw left wing David Eades collect and run in for corner try. Ryan Davies added the conversation to give Nantymoel a 7-0 advantage.

It took Tondy 20 minutes to open their account with some great handling from the backs sending full back Aled Jones over in the corner for a half-time score of Nantymoel 7, Tondy 5.

But as has been the norm this season, the visitors took control in the second period, in poor conditions showing why they are runaway leaders in Division Two Central West.

Their second try came from a huge effort from the forwards, allowing prop Scott Walters to fall over the line after a rolling maul. Josh Tatchell added the simple conversation to put Tondy in front for the first time.

It was Jones who provided the killer punch midway through the half; after some good interplay from the backs, Tatchell kicked ahead and a slip up from the Nanty outside half saw Jones slide in for the decisive try.

Tatchell this time converted from the touchline to give Tondy a hard-fought 17-9 win.

This was a typical local derby in heavy



Matthew Davies.



Aled Jones.

conditions, with find it hard to play against us."

This Saturday Tondy entertain Cwmgor at Pandry Park, the game that should see them become renowned for this season.

Tondy chairman Graham Thomas said: "In heavy conditions which were a leveller, we again got a foothold like we've been doing all season – teams seem to

MIKE SULLY

Bridgend Athletic youth in cup final action this weekend

BRIDGEND Athletic RFC youth second XV, affectionately known as the Rags, from the Ospreys OB Youth League, will be playing Treorchy Youth from the Blues BC League in the final of the Welsh Youth Bowl Cup Competition at the BT Cardiff Arms Park ground on Saturday, April 8, kick-off 11am.

Controversially, the three Welsh Youth Cup finals taking place that day were moved from the Principality Stadium to the next door ground, with the clubs only notified the day before the semi-finals on March 25.

This has caused great disappointment to the players, being denied a potential once-in-a-lifetime chance to play at the Principality Stadium. The WRU cited protecting the ground for the Champions League final, though there is rugby at the stadium on seven occasions before the prestigious event.

The Athletic Rags, mainly 17 year olds in their first season in youth rugby reached the final seeing off challenges from Aberdare youth seconds, Llantwit Major youth, Newbridge youth, Tondy youth and Pontypool United youth.

Newbridge and Pontypool United are the top two youth sides in the Gwent Dragons DD Youth League. The Rags are fourth placed in their league with five wins and five defeats,

with 247 points for and 210 against.

They, and the Athletic senior youth team, who are the top side in the Ospreys league set-up, are a credit to the Athletic youth coaching staff.

Head coach Lee Grabham, assistant coaches John Doherty and Kevin Gamble have all had significant senior playing careers with the Athletic, while assistant coach and fixture secretary Keith Hobby is a welcome addition to the Athletic family club.

Treorchy are formidable opponents reaching the final with a narrow victory over Llandovery.

They have won all eight games they have played in their league, scoring 395 points with only 31 against.

To add spice to the occasion they are coached by former Cardiff hooker Ian Greenslade who played junior-aged rugby with the Athletic and was later a well-respected forwards coach at the club and has also turned out for the senior side.

The club have 100 complimentary tickets for the game and 100 priced at £5, which are available from the clubhouse, Athletic committee or youth coaches and Rags players.

There will also be a supporters' bus from the clubhouse - to book reservations contact youth head coach Lee Grabham at lee.grabs@gmail.com.

The club wish the players all the best for the final and win or lose they can be pleased with reaching such a prestigious final, with another year in youth rugby ahead of most of them.

AB

Seaweeds end season with win - now face wait to land league title

PORHCRAWL'S league season ended on Saturday with a 24-3 away win at Tonmawr, who made it a difficult afternoon as the Seaweeds chased a bonus point win.

Within three minutes, Josh White put Porthcawl ahead with smart penalty when the home side fell offside at a ruck, only for the home side to have a shot at goal themselves almost immediately as Porthcawl did the same. However Dai Harris' 25 metre shot went wide. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 35)